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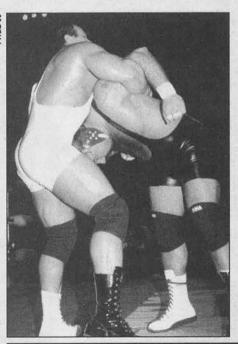
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Next issue on sale June 9, 1998

KAREN

## Sincerely Yours

Send letters to: Sincerely Yours P.O. Box 1148 Fort Washington, PA 19034

#### SAD TIMES

I was very saddened to learn of the death of Louie Spicolli. Then I bought the April issue of INSIDE WRESTLING, in which Dave Rosenbaum wrote about some of the

tragic deaths of the last 15 years and how he thought there would be many more. He didn't know how right he was.

Louie was finally making a name for himself and was even broadcasting on Nitro and Thunder. Within the bigger-than-life world of wrestling, something must be done to stop a tragedy like this from striking again. The wrestlers must also be more careful in the wake of the deaths of Spicolli and Brian Pillman. I hope the wrestling world will not be struck with any more deaths by this time next year.

ROBBIE KWORICK Milton, DE

I think the lack of respect shown toward the death of Louie Spicolli by the wrestling community is appalling.

WCW should be ashamed of the "tribute" they gave Spicolli—a three-bell salute. The only time they even mentioned Spicolli's passing was when Tony Schiavone asked Larry Zbyszko if he had any thoughts about it—as if Zbyszko would say something nice. WCW dedicated more time to Scott Steiner turning NWO than the death of one of its future stars.

The WWF didn't even recognize his death at all on the air. ECW should be applauded for properly acknowledging Spicolli's death.

Are they the conscience of professional wrestling? If so, isn't that's a scary thought?

MARK VANDERVORT
Houston, TX

The passing of ring legend Bobo Brazil has left a void that will never be filled. For decades, Bobo gave so much to the sport that his name became synonymous with professional wrestling.

That is why it is inconceivable that the death of a wrestler of his magnitude would receive hardly any recognition. The WWF mentioned his passing briefly, and WCW not at all. My only hope is that Brazil will somehow receive all the glory and credit he deserves. May the bell toll 10 times for this great fallen hero.

VINCENT NESBY Louisville, KY

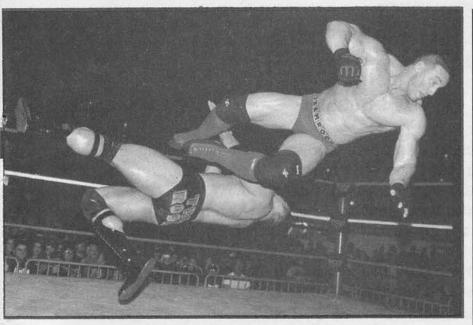
I would like to commend Mr. David Rosenbaum for a very respectful ending to his column "Behind The Dressing Room Door" (April 1998).

The column ended: "Gino Hernandez, David Von Erich, who knows where you guys are right now, but if there is a wrestling ring there, I'm sure you guys are going at it." Yes, sir, it is a match we all wish we could see. Mr. Rosenbaum, that line caught my eye. I had to read it aloud to myself.

JASON HEAD Fort Washington, PA



Professional wrestling suffered another tragedy when Louie Spicolli was found dead on February 15. Reader Mark Vandervort doesn't think the wrestling community has done enough to recognize Spicolli's death.



Ken Shamrock and Rocky Maivia may not like each other, but they have one thing in common: Both are stars on the rise in the WWF. Reader Kurtis C. Wolf prefers the WWF over WCW.

#### VINCE DA MAN

The WWF is on the upswing, and I think it will soon overtake WCW in terms of talent and popularity. The deal between Don King and Vince McMahon to bring Mike

Tyson to the WWF was a stroke of genius! King is a big-time promoter with a proven record of success.

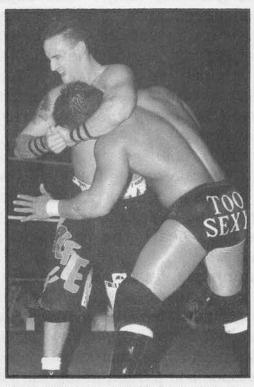
The creation of the WWF light heavyweight and European titles will draw talent from Latin America, Asia, and Europe. Then there's the recognition of the NWA—one of the oldest and most respected organizations ever. Maybe even Dan Severn will compete in the WWF.

While Hogan, Savage, Luger, and Bret Hart are fading, Owen Hart, Shawn Michaels, Ken Shamrock, and Rocky Maivia are the wrestling talent of the future.

KURTIS C. WOLF Glendale, AZ

#### CIAO, USWA

Speaking as a true wrestling fan, I can just tell you that every time a small independent organization stops operating, I cannot help but feel a pain in my heart. It would be too easy to forget that wrestlers like Steve Austin, Sting, and The Undertaker all start(Continued on page 70)



Brian Christopher and Wolfie D were mainstays in the USWA before the federation folded last fall. All the way from Milan, Italy, reader Maurio Cassani laments the loss of this Tennessee institution.

### LA ESGINS

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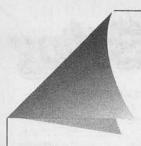
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### REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK

By Stu Saks

I've grown to appreciate Japanese and Mexican wrestling over the years, and I am grateful that the big-time wrestling promotions have as well. The influx of international talent into the WWF, ECW, and WCW has served as an education not just to American fans, but to American wrestlers, many of whom have widened their repertoires by studying their international counterparts.

These men are good, real good in fact, but doesn't it bug you just a little bit when announcers and journalists speak of international competition in such a reverential manner that you're left with the impression that American wrestling is dreadfully inferior? How many times have you heard an announcer say something like, "Joe Smith went to Japan a bum and came back a world championship contender." I am not going to say that there isn't a great deal to be learned by competing in Japan or Mexico. Sometimes what a wrestler learns outside the U.S. is just what he needs to put him over the top and, perhaps, make him a contender. But does that make international wrestling better? No. Just different.

American wrestlers are generally larger than Japanese and Mexican wrestlers and are more inclined to use power maneuvers. Japanese and Mexican wrestlers are, generally speaking, more athletic and innovative. Which is better from a fan's perspective? That's a matter of taste. Which is better from a competitive standpoint? Well, that depends on who's wrestling. Japanese wrestlers beat American wrestlers, and vice versa. The style employed isn't anywhere near as important as the effective execution of that style.

The way some people talk, Japanese wrestlers should beat American wrestlers every time out. Why do people think that way? Some of these people are very learned on the Japanese wrestling scene and are so full of themselves that by glorifying Japanese wrestling, they are also glorifying themselves. Some have heard the propaganda for so long that they've been brainwashed.

My purpose is not to minimize Japanese or Mexican wrestling in any way. In fact, beginning with the August 1998 edition of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated*, we are going to be dedicating increased coverage to the international wrestling scene. I just take exception with those of people who feel a need to look in the neighbor's backyard and admire how green the grass is. Sometimes the person doing the looking is just full of manure.

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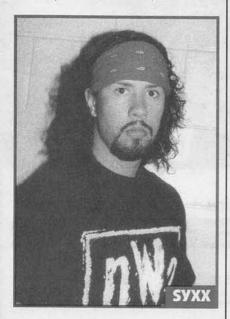
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### NAMES MA

SYXX EXPERIENCED A rather unexpected development while undergoing rehabilitation for neck and back injuries he suffered last fall. He was fired by WCW.

"No reason was given for letting me go," he told me. "I was home, the doorbell rang, Fed Ex handed me a package from [WCW Executive Vice President] **Nick Lambros**, and in it was my termination letter." Due to legal restrictions, Syxx said he was not able to elaborate any further. Lambros did not return our calls.

It is possible, however, that the sit-

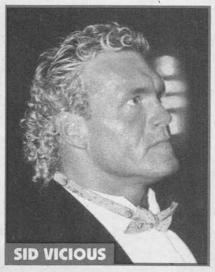


uation is not final. During a Prodigy chat session in March, Syxx's close friend and fellow "Wolfpack" member **Kevin Nash** indicated that WCW might have softened on its position, and that Syxx might be back.

Syxx was forced to stop wrestling in October after he sustained injuries to several vertebrae in his neck and suffered a herniated disk. He underwent surgery on November 13 and has been in physical therapy ever since.

The WWF has sent several scouts I

to Brazil to check out a 7'4" basketball player who is interested in becoming a wrestler. The WWF being very hush-hush about this. They won't even reveal his name! ... Sid Vicious plans to travel to Japan to wrestle for the IWA. "I want Doug Gilbert's title so I



can prove I am the ruler of Japan," he scowled ... ECW has sealed a deal with CableVision to carry its pay-perviews, which means that 35 million households will have access to its events. This is a big step for ECW, as CableVision's stronghold is the Northeast, where ECW is most popular ... WWF Commissioner Sgt. Slaughter has accepted several independent wrestling dates in New Hampshire and Massachusetts.

Scott Steiner reports that all is well in the NWO camp between him and Buff Bagwell. "Great guy, great physique, and he's becoming a great friend of mine," he says. "It's hard for me to believe I once had a confrontational relationship with him" ... Duke Droese—who's now Mike Droese—has returned to the WWF minus his "Dumpster" nickname and his garbage can.

Cactus Jack says he's having "the time of my life in tag team matches. Never had such a great time in the



ring." Jack points to his two current tag team partners as the source of his fun. "Chainsaw Charlie is my hero, and here I am standing next to him every night. The Blue Meanie [with whom he holds the Steel City Wrestling tag team title] is one of the most outrageous and vicious people I ever shared a corner with. He's so cool. I'm gonna introduce him to Dude Love real soon."

With promoter Randy Hales in the driver's seat, wrestling has returned to Memphis under the banner of a company called Memphis Wrestling Enterprises. By summer, Hales, a former USWA matchmaker, hopes to be running cards monthly at the Mid-South Coliseum, the building in the which the USWA and CWA used to run cards every Monday night. Hales has also made a deal with WMC-TV, the old home of USWA and CWA broadcasts. Miss Texas (a.k.a. Jacquelyn), Sid Vicious, Bill Dundee, and Brian Christopher have all been contacted

### KIN' NEWS

By Bill Apter

regarding upcoming cards.

Since WCW has opted not to renew his contract, **Steven Regal** is considering entering into discussions with the WWF and several independent promotions ... The World Wrestling Council's top woman wrestler, **La Tigresa**, was arrested for allegedly trafficking heroin and cocaine in a state penitentiary. Tigresa, whose real name is **Soldelina Vargas**, was arrested along with her boyfriend, her mother, and one other person.

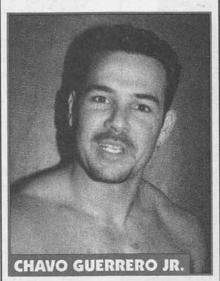


Juventud Guerrera has gotten the okay to continue wearing his mask when he competes in Mexico, but, according to his arch-enemy there, Tarzan Boy, he might not do so for long. Tarzan Boy has already challenged Juventud to a hair vs. mask match, insisting, "When you lose your mask in this country, your career is finished. I will go into the ring with only one goal: to beat Guerrera no matter what it takes."

Veteran lunatic **George "The Animal" Steele** has won the Grande Wrestling Alliance heavyweight title from **Bob Steele**. Incredibly, this is the first title for the George since his rook-

ie year, 1962, when he beat Larry Chene for the Tri-State title in Michigan ... Jake Roberts has signed for several matches in Connecticut's Northeast Wrestling ... Will o' the Wisp beat The Lumbee Warrior for the New Dimension light heavyweight belt ... Malia Hosaka is feuding with "Princess Dee" Debbie Combs in Tennessee ... Glacier and Ernest Miller have put their feud on hold for the time being. "We are far from being friends and tag team partners again," says Miller, "but we are talking and trying to see if we can at least salvage some part of our past relationship."

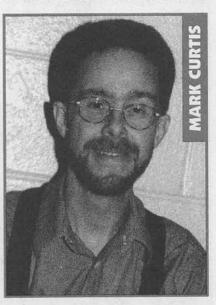
I had a strange conversation with Chavo Guerrero Jr. the other day. He's quite frustrated by his lack of success and is considering making some drastic changes. "I feel like I'm knocking my head against a wall trying to get ahead in WCW," he said. "Most of my opponents use dirty tactics to win against me. Maybe what my uncle Eddy is doing is not so wrong. Maybe I should change as well."



Noted **Eddy Guerrero**: "Chavo is a coward. He doesn't have the guts to go the way I did 'cause he couldn't

stand Mommy being disappointed in her poor little boy" ... The Ladies International Wrestling Association's 17th annual convention, which includes a wrestling show, a banquet, and other events, will take place at Las Vegas' Plaza Hotel from June 18 to 20. Veterans Fabulous Moolah and Mae Young, along with current stars such as Brittany Brown, will compete on the card.

New England's Century Wrestling Alliance has become a member of the NWA ... NWA Southwest has signed the legendary Mil Mascaras for a series of matches against Kit Carson ... Great to see referee Mark Curtis



back in WCW rings after his bout with stomach cancer. "I just want to thank everyone in the sport for all their support during this very trying time," an emotional Curtis said after his return. "The fans, the promoters, and so many of the wrestlers were so supportive of me when I was going through my chemotherapy treatments. God bless them all."

That's all for now. I'll see you at the matches!

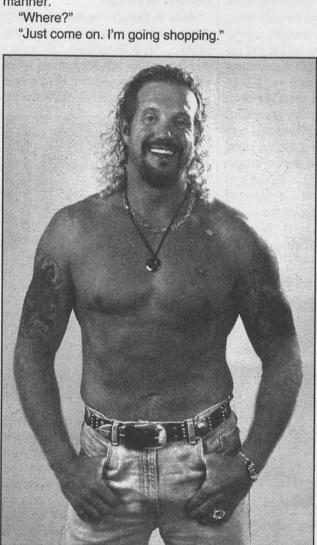
HERE'S NOTHING LIKE a trip to San Francisco this time of year. Clear skies. Pleasant weather. Only a slight chance of earthquakes. I was sitting in the lobby of the Parc 55 Hotel the day after SuperBrawl VIII, which was held at the Cow Palace, just minding my own business, when who should come down the escalator but "Diamond" Dallas Page, friend of Inside Wrestling and any magazine that likes colorful characters.

"What's up, Lenker?" Page asked.

"Nothing," I said, looking up from

the San Francisco Examiner. "Just hanging out. Thought maybe I'd head over to Alcatraz later. Maybe get some dim-sum for lunch in Chinatown."

"Come with me," Page demanded in a friendly manner.



When Dallas Page takes time out to pose before a match, he's wearing—you guessed it—blue jeans. Since he always wrestles in them, he's picky about which ones he buys.

And so off we went into the streets of San Francisco (wasn't that a TV show starring Karl Malden?), down Market Street, and into the great unknown—heretofore known as the very large Gap clothing store located in downtown San Francisco.

I didn't know this at the time, but I

I didn't know this at the time, but I was going shopping for blue jeans with "Diamond" Dallas Page.

What an honor.

With Dave Lenker

As anybody who watches WCW knows, "Diamond" Dallas Page is one of the few famous wrestlers to wear blue jeans into the ring. Now, some

people might laugh at this. After all, what athlete wears blue jeans when he's participating? Cold golfers? Bowlers? I mean, wrestlers are supposed to wear wrestling tights. Blue jeans? They can be kind of restricting in a sport like wrestling, which demands agility and quick movements.

But Page, he used to wear standard tights, but now he wears blue jeans. All the time. Exclusively.

And what kind of blue jeans does DDP wear?

"The most comfortable I can find," Page said. "They gotta be roomy and they can't be the thick kind. When I buy them, I wash them about a dozen times, then I wear them for about a week before I'll wear them into the ring. But the way I figure it, why waste time changing into wrestling tights for a match when it's just as easy to wear what you got on?"

Good question, especially when Page won the WCW U.S. heavyweight title while wrestling in blue jeans.

But back to our shopping trip.

"Hey, DDP, wanna hop on the cable car?" I asked hopefully.

"Why? Let's walk. Where we're going is just around the corner."

So we stepped into the Gap—or fell into the Gap—and looked around.

"Best thing about the Gap," Page said. "Odd sizes. Most stores only have even waist sizes, like 30, 32, 34, 36, and 38. This place has 31, 33, 35, and 37. Let's say you gain an inch or lose an inch? Why should you have to wear jeans that aren't your size?"

Okay, before I allow Page to turn this column into an advertisement for the Gap clothing stores, let me say that Page did not buy his jeans in the Gap on this day. He did draw quite a bit of attention, especially from a saleswoman who looked very much like Kimberly, but Page decided that the jeans available in the Gap on this day just didn't feel right.

"Let's go somewhere else," Page said.

Well, sure. So we shopped. We went down the street and stopped in Macy's. No go. Then into Neiman-Marcus and Nordstrom's. Didn't have what he

(Continued on page 72)



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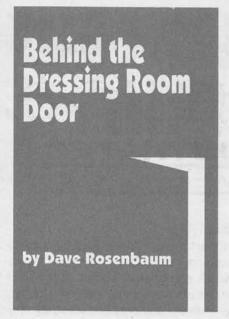
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NEVER THOUGHT I'd see myself writing this, but I am really proud of Scott Hall. I mean really proud of Scott Hall. This is a young man I can see striking out on his own some day and really making it big.

Oh, what? You mean he's not young? He's been wrestling since 1984? He's already won the WWF Intercontinental title and the WCW World tag team title? Well, correct me. It was only this past February that Hall showed some backbone, and as we all know, a human being isn't a human being unless he has a backbone.

Anyone who stands up to Hollywood Hogan and refuses to back down to his self-centeredness scores big points in my book.

You probably know what I'm talking about. Way back in November of last year, Hall won the World War III battle royal. He had to cheat a lot, but he did win it. His reward was a shot at the WCW World heavyweight title at SuperBrawl VIII. The problem at the time of that win was that the WCW World title was held by Hollywood Hogan, Hall's fellow member in the NWO. There was no way Hall was going to get a title shot against a fellow NWO member. (Although who knows why; it seems to be the perfect scenario.

No matter who won, the NWO would still have the belt.)

Next problem was that by the time we got to SuperBrawl VIII, there was no WCW World champion. The title was vacant. A match between Hogan and Sting was ordered for that event, and the winner was to be crowned champion.

Then Hogan lost to Sting at SuperBrawl VIII ...

Okay. Let's take a timeout here. SuperBrawl VIII. Just think about that for a moment. I mean, the Super Bowl deserves Roman numerals. WrestleMania. That's the biggest event on the WWF calendar. Most wrestling fans could have told you that the WrestleMania held this year was number 14.

But SuperBrawl with Roman numerals? SuperBrawl is not the most important event on WCW's pay-per-view calendar. It's not even the second most important event. It might be fourth or fifth. SuperBrawl does not deserve Roman numerals. Who knew that this was SuperBrawl VIII until WCW started telling us? From now on, SuperBrawl should be attached to a year. This past SuperBrawl was SuperBrawl '98.

Okay. Back to the column. When Hogan lost to Sting at SuperBrawl '98—there, isn't that better?—Hall immediately stepped to the front of the line for a shot at Sting. Of course he did. He deserved it. He had earned the title shot at World War III.

But soon after it was announced that Hall would wrestle Sting, Hogan started telling anyone who would listen that Hall would be wrestling for him. In other words, if Hall won the belt, he'd hand it over to Hogan.

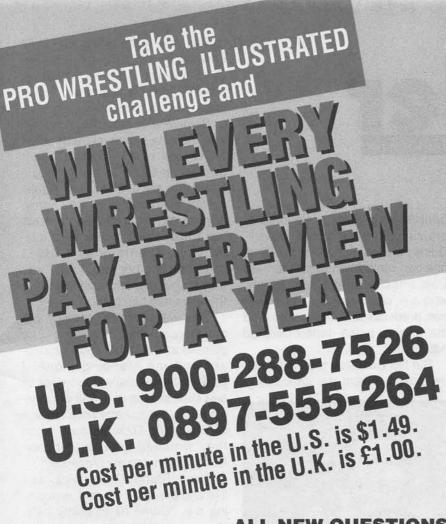
Hogan apparently forgot two things. The first—and most important—is that championship belts are non-transferable. Hogan should have remembered this. In 1988, Hogan lost the WWF World title to Andre the Giant on national TV and Andre tried to give the belt to Ted DiBiase. WWF President Jack Tunney later ruled the transaction invalid and declared the title vacant.

The other thing Hogan forgot is that he's not the only person on this planet. The world, no less the NWO, does not revolve around Hollywood Hogan, and Hall made this known when he said, "Hollywood is like a brother to me, but this is *my* shot. After I pin the one-two-three, I'll bring the belt back to the NWO, but it's going around my waist."

(Continued on page 74)



Do you ever wonder how friendly the private conversations between Hollywood Hogan and Scott Hall are these days? There's one important matter on which they don't agree.



Now you can go head-to-head with the editors of *PWI* in the trivia match of your life. If you can answer seven consecutive questions correctly without getting pinned, you will have earned the title "Undisputed Wrestling Trivia Champ" and WIN EVERY WRESTLING PAY-PER-VIEW FOR A YEAR. PLUS: Each month, five runners-up will receive a grab bag of wrestling magazine back issues.

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The voice of ECW is ...?

- 1) Joey Styles
- 2) Paul E. Dangerously
- 3) Tommy Dreamer
- 4) Bill Alfonso

#### Lex Luger is also known as ...?

- 1) Totally Awesome
- 2) The Six Pack
- 3) The Total Package
- 4) None of the above

True or False: The Giant competed in the 1988 Summer Olympics as a member of the Austrian basketball team?

1) True 2) False

The Undertaker was once tag team partners with ...?

- 1) Lou Albano
- 2) Sgt. Slaughter
- 3) Rick Steiner
- 4) None of the above

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one year (maximum retail value is \$750.00). Winners will be selected at random from the pool of all eligible entries. The Grand Prize will be awarded in the form of one payment in the amount of \$750.00. It is the Grand Prize winner's responsibility to order and pay for each wrestling pay-per-view event. From February 15, 1998, till July 30, 1998, a total of one (1) Grand Prize will be awarded. In addition, twenty (20) wrestling grab bag back issue packages (five per week) will be awarded (retail value \$20 each). Advanced Telecom Services will select the winners. London Publishing Co. will select the back issues to be included in the grab bag packages. No substitutions allowed. Direct all inquiries, to Advanced Telecom Services at BCM Box 6424, London WCIN 3XX

# the Insider

(The opinions expressed in "The Insider" are those of Brandi Mankiewicz alone and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of anyone else on the staff of this magazine.)

ALL YOUR weatherman.
Hell has frozen over. This
column will mark the first
time that the entire text of any pro-

rulebreaking piece is devoted to praising "The American Dream" Dusty Rhodes. For as long as anyone can remember, great men like Dan Shocket and Eddie Ellner, who are, coincidentally, my poison pen predecessors, have skewered the rotund, polka-dotted hero ad nauseum.

But big Dust saw the light when he looked toward the dark side. I

Duesides

Dusty Rhodes returned to his rulebreaking roots when he joined Scott Hall and the NWO. "The American Dream" says being cheered by the fans is not what the wrestling business is about. I say he's right.

had to do it. I had to find time to sit down with the "Dream" and discuss his bad attitude. It was a summit ... a meeting of two minds that now truly think alike.

Believe it or not, the interview with the now-senior member of the NWO took place at WCW head-quarters at CNN Center. I found it strange to ask a WCW receptionist for the whereabouts of the enemy. Apparently, an iron-clad contract has Rhodes secure in at least a little square footage at WCW. I could see it in her face. Dusty was truly in, but she and everyone else there wanted him out.

She walked me to his office, but she stopped short of entering. She pointed to the door, spun around, and left me standing alone. I pushed the partially open door to see Dust in front of a wall of televisions. On the screens were footage of Dusty and Dick Murdoch when they wrestled as The Outlaws. Dusty then noted my presence.

"Well, Brandi Mankiewicz, as I live and breathe," he said, welcoming me. "Come here, pretty lady. Have a seat. Welcome to my den among all these wolves, if you will."

I sat next to Dusty in front of the monitors and watched him look back at his past. I was seeing this man in a whole new light. After years of fan pandering, Rhodes had become the absolute antithesis of what he was before. He was a renegade, a rebel, and—dare I say—an outlaw.

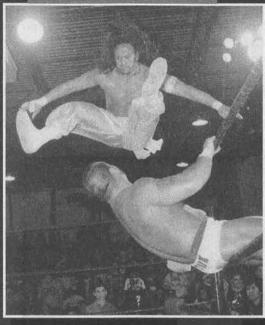
"Look at us, Ms. Brandi," said Dusty. "Dickie and I were so young then. So full of life. Look at me bust up the rules. That was the real Dusty Rhodes. I've been fooling myself all these years. I forgot about the most important tradition of all: my tradition."

"Me joining the NWO should be a shock to no man," Rhodes continued. "Just look at my past. Before the days when I thought that the fans, and more importantly WCW, were looking out for my best interests. But they most defi-

(Continued on page 76)

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## Assignment By Liz Hunter

ANY FOLKS ARE comparing the current business boom in wrestling to that of the mid-'80s. Monday night programming for the WWF and WCW is enjoying unbelievable ratings each and every week. Mainstream media now cover certain wrestling events, while many supercards feature appearances by major celebrities. And a lot of WWF and

WCW shows are sold out only a few hours after tickets for them go on sale.

But if this is a *truly* revisited "boom," there is one major aspect missing: women.

No, I am not talking about women's wrestling, which has had its own share of ups and downs (mostly downs). I'm referring to the audience.

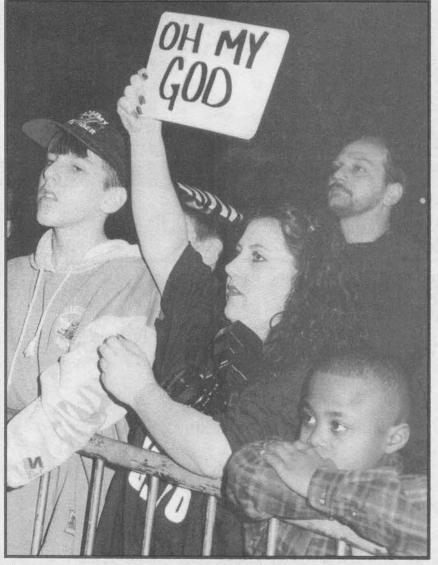
One of the more interesting side notes of the '80s wrestling scene was the presence of women. Young and old. College students. Housewives. Grandmothers. At that time, wrestling focused on the muscle-bound lot that flexed more than suplexed. Of course, the female element turned out in droves.

Men like Hulk Hogan, The Ultimate Warrior, and Rick Rude ruled the ring. They were great, but it wasn't their wrestling ability or their violent edge that attracted the female fans. They preferred to flex their pecs and show off their bodies to anyone who would notice. More often than not, it was the women who noticed.

When the ladies got past the tight, defined flesh, they actually stuck around for the matches, purchased merchandise, and tuned in for at least an occasional pay-perview. The days of the smoke-filled arenas stuffed with men clad in T-shirts seemed to be things of the past. They were women and we could hear them roar.

But with the latest surge in popularity, things seem a tad different. Check out the crowd when the camera pans a *Nitro* or *Raw* audience. You will see a few females in the crowd, but for the most part, you see young men. A lot of them. Men mugging for the camera while flashing Four Horsemen and NWO 4 Life hand signals. Men who freeze in their tracks when a leggy "personality" (and I use that term lightly) wiggles in front of them.

Simply put, '90s wrestling is playing to that all-important male demographic. The kind that will crack open a beer while playing (Continued on page 77)



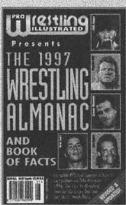
Wrestling fan or endangered species? Female attendance at live wrestling cards seems to be way down. The sport doesn't have the same appeal to women as it did in the mid-'80s.

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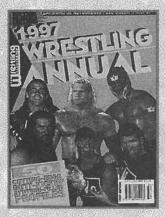
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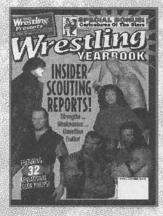
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## CAPSULE PR FILE

### **RANDY SAVAGE**

HANKS TO HIS erratic behavior and hair-trigger temper, "Macho Man" Randy Savage is regarded by many as the most dangerous man in the sport. Not only has his career been shaped by a staggering number of feuds, but "The

Madness" has held more than his share of belts. Savage's antics have both thrilled and repulsed fans around the world, and nobody knows what he's going to do next ("That's the way I like it") ... The son of former wrestler Angelo Poffo and brother of "Leapin" Lanny Poffo, Randy debuted in November 1973. beating Paul Christy ... Collected several titles throughout the South and Midwest during the '70s and '80s ... Took the name Savage at the urging of Ole Anderson ("Because I wrestle like a savage-oh, yeah!") ... Moved to the WWF collecting titles there ... Won the I-C belt

from Tito Santana on February 6, 1986 ... Beat Ted DiBiase in a tournament final for the World title at WrestleMania IV on March 27, 1988, but he lost the belt and his manager, Elizabeth, to Hulk Hogan at WrestleMania V ("That snake wanted my woman more

than he wanted the belt") ... Savage was later reunited with Elizabeth, and he mar-

ried her at SummerSlam '91 in Madison Square Garden, though the two would later divorce ... Ric Flair heated up his feud with Savage by claiming he had revealing photos of himself and Elizabeth together ... That feud climaxed on April 5, 1992, when

in 1985 and started collecting titles there "Macho Man" can be.

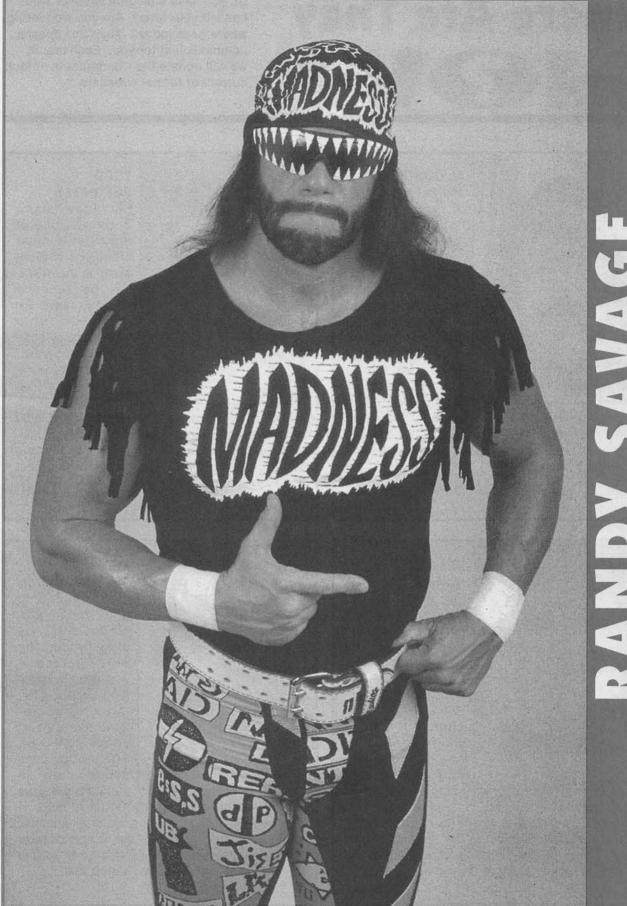
If it seems like Randy Savage is always embroiled in some sort of feud, it's because he is. Lex Luger knows just how vicious and dangerous the "Macho Man" can be.

Savage regained the World title by pinning Flair at WrestleMania VIII ("Nobody humiliates me and gets away with it") ... After losing the belt back to Flair in September 1992, Savage mainly focused on his duties as a WWF broadcaster, but he did compete

occasionally in Smoky Mountain Wrestling and the USWA ... Defeated Jerry Lawler for the USWA title on October 11, 1993, after Vince McMahon interfered ... Made the leap to WCW on December 3, 1994, and resumed his feud with Flair after Flair and Arn Anderson attacked his father at Slamboree '95 ("My father could take him one-on-one") ... Won a

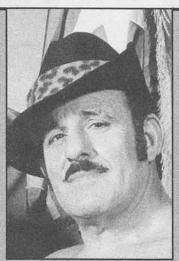
60-man battle royal at World War III to capture the vacant WCW World title. but lost it to Flair at SuperBrawl VI ... Regained the title on January 22, 1996, in Las Vegas, when he pinned Flair, but Elizabeth shockingly helped the "Nature Boy" recapture the belt a month later at SuperBrawl VI ... The two were once again estranged until Elizabeth begged for Savage's forgiveness ... Became a target of the NWO when Hollywood Hogan spray painted a yellow streak down Savage's back after he was choke-slammed by The Giant ... Savage feuded for months with

Dallas Page after joining the NWO ("Still some unresolved issues there") ... Has once again fallen out of favor with the NWO and has teamed with Sting against Hogan and Scott Hall ("If the NWO can't do business my way, then I don't need 'em").



# Where Are They NOW Where Are They

Do you have a favorite wrestler who has left your area? Are you wondering where he is today? Then this special column is just for you. Each month we will update the whereabouts of four current or former wrestlers



#### AL COSTELLO

The founding father of the original Fabulous Kangaroos tag team currently lives in Florida with his wife, Ida. Costello had hip replacement surgery several years ago, and now limits his physical activity. He spends most of his days reading, watching

TV, and conversing with both fans and wrestlers who call upon him for his wisdom. "I also like to look over my memorabilia from my career and recall all the good times I had in the sport," he says.



#### TODD PETTINGILL

For three years, Todd was one of the most familiar broadcast personalities in the WWF, but he recently opted to leave the federation for a broadcasting position with one of New York's top radio stations, WPLJ. Todd co-hosts a

top-40 program with Scott Shannon. He also produces audio spots for radio in his own studio. "I will always cherish my relationship with the WWF," said Pettingill. "It was one of the most positive experiences of my life."



#### DEBRA McMICHAEL

The self-proclaimed "Queen Of WCW" currently lives in Atlanta, but she spends most of her time travelling throughout Europe. While there, she attends fashion shows in France, goes to the theater in England, and samples the finest

foods in Italy. "I just want to assure all my fans that Queen Debra is ready to return soon," McMichael said. Regarding her estranged husband, Steve "Mongo" McMichael, she adds, "He might have some surprises coming his way."



#### THE SHEIK

The Sheik terrorized opponents and fans with hardcore tactics long before the word "hardcore" was used in wrestling circles. After three hip operations and a heart attack, however, Sheik ended his active career in 1995. He did show

up in his nephew Sabu's corner for a match in August 1996. Today, Sheik and his wife, Joyce, live in a suburb of Detroit, where he spends most of his free time painting. "We also travel around the world meeting dignitaries," Joyce said.



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Get ready for the hottest month in the history of wrestling publishing. In May, the editors of Pro Wrestling Illustrated are publishing not one, not two, but three special collector's issues!

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PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED PRESENTS: THE STATE OF THE GAME. What's the current state of the WWF, WCW, and ECW? How about the independent promotions and the international scene? What's the state of the business, of wrestling holds, of rules, of wrestling fans, and the sport's future? We break the sport down in every conceivable category and present our expert analyses as to where the sport is at and where it's going. 100 pages (including 32 color pinups)

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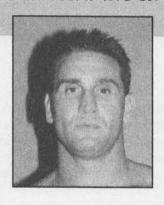
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### NEWS FROM THE

#### VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA BY NEIL O'BRIEN



ROCKY MAIVIA VS. KEN SHAMROCK



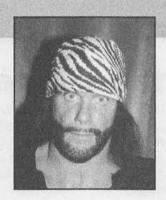
Maivia retained his I-C title against Shamrock, but he needed help from The Nation of Domination to do it. Early on, D-Lo Brown distracted Shamrock, allowing Rocky to attack. Later, Shamrock hit Rocky with a flying bodypress and a fisherman's suplex, then tried to pin him, but the NOD distracted the referee. Shamrock then accidentally kayoed the ref with a clothesline, which allowed Rocky to knock Shamrock out with a chair and get the pin.

OTHER BOUTS: WWF light heavyweight champ Taka Michinoku beat Brian Christopher ... Justin Bradshaw pinned Kama Mustafa ... The Godwinns beat Skull & Eight-Ball ... Kane beat Chainz ... WWF European champ Owen Hart beat Goldust ... WWF World tag team champs The New Age Outlaws beat Cactus Jack & Chainsaw Charlie ... Marc Mero beat Tom Brandi ... The Quebecers beat NWA tag team champs The Headbangers in a non-title match ... Steve Austin defeated Hunter Hearst Helmsley.

SAN FRANCISCO, CA BY FRANK VITUCCI



LEX LUGER VS. RANDY SAVAGE



Surprisingly, the Cow Palace crowd cheered Savage for his match with Luger, but their support didn't help. The "Macho Man" attacked Luger first, gaining an advantage by dropping Luger over the railing, then brawling with him through the crowd. Luger soon regained his composure, but then Elizabeth interfered and raked his eyes. Later, various members of the NWO ran in and attacked both men, but Hulk Hogan called them off. Luger then "racked" Savage and forced him to submit.

OTHER BOUTS: Booker T beat WCW TV champ Rick Martel to win the belt ... Booker T beat Perry Saturn ... Disco Inferno pinned La Parka ... Bill Goldberg beat Brad Armstrong ... WCW cruiserweight champ Chris Jericho beat Juventud Guerrera ... Davey Boy Smith beat Steve McMichael ... Scott Hall & Kevin Nash beat WCW World tag champs Rick & Scott Steiner for the title ... Sting pinned Hulk Hogan for the vacant WCW World title ... WCW U.S. champ Dallas Page beat Chris Benoit.

MOUNT HOLLY, NJ BY JERRY GERSHMAN



DEVON STORM
VS.
RECKLESS YOUTH

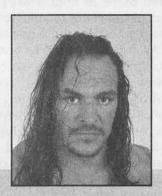


Storm pinned Youth in the NWA light heavy-weight title tournament final, but it appeared he got a favorable decision from guest referee Lance Diamond. The two men traded moves on the mat early on as they tried to gain the upper hand. Storm was the first to go to the air, but his aerial attack was matched by Youth's. They eventually wound up outside the ring, where they traded moonsaults. Later, as Youth went for a "Frankensteiner," Storm rolled him up, but both ended up with their shoulders on the mat. Diamond counted only Youth's down, however, and gave the win and the belt to Storm.

OTHER BOUTS: In the first round of the tournament: Devon Storm pinned Ray Odyssey ... Lupus beat The Great Caruso ... Reckless Youth beat J.R. Ryder ... Twiggy Ramirez pinned Rik Ratchet ... Semifinals: Storm pinned Ramirez ... Youth beat Lupus ... In non-tournament matches: King Kong Bundy beat Metal Maniac ... The Misfits beat The Himalaya Playas.

### WRESTLING CAPITALS

#### ASBURY PARK, NJ BY TIMOTHY A. WALKER



SABU VS. THE SANDMAN



Thanks in great part to Rob Van Dam, Sabu pinned Sandman in a double-cane match at the Living Dangerously pay-per-view. Sabu blindsided Sandman first, then repeatedly whacked him with a cane. As Sandman recovered, though, the real Sabu ran out as the first Sabu removed his headdress to reveal that he was actually Van Dam. Both men then beat on Sandman until Van Dam was sent back to the dressing room. He later returned, and he and Sabu delivered simultaneous legdrops on Sandman, allowing Sabu to get the pin.

OTHER BOUTS: Jerry Lynn & Chris Chetti beat Little Guido & Tracey Smothers ... Masato Tanaka pinned Doug Furnas ... Rob Van Dam beat 2 Cold Scorpio ... Spike Dudley & New Jack won a three-way dance over Axl Rotten & B. Mahoney and D-Von & Buh Buh Ray Dudley ... Tommy Dreamer beat Justin Credible ... Bam Bam Bigelow pinned ECW TV champ Taz to win the title ... Lance Storm & Al Snow beat Chris Candido & Shane Doualas.

#### HOUSTON, TX BY AMANDA LUTZ



VS. VADER



Kane defeated Vader decisively in this match, but that wasn't enough for him: He also whacked Vader in the face with a huge wrench, and Vader was in such bad shape as a result that he needed help returning to the dressing room. The two brawled their way through this match, with Vader weakening Kane enough to use a moonsault on him. Kane, however, sat up after getting hit with that move. Vader later tried spraying Kane with a fire extinguisher, but that didn't stop him, either. Kane finished off his foe with a "tombstone" piledriver.

OTHER BOUTS: The Headbangers beat Marc Mero & Goldust ... WWF light heavyweight champ Taka Michinoku pinned Pantera ... Henry & Phineas Godwinn beat The Quebecers ... Justin Bradshaw beat NWA North American champ Jeff Jarrett by disqualification ... Ken Shamrock, Ahmed Johnson, Chainz, Skull, & Eight-Ball beat The Nation of Domination ... Steve Austin, Owen Hart, Cactus Jack, & Chainsaw Charlie beat Hunter Hearst Helmsley, Billy Gunn, Jesse James, & Savio Vega.

#### WINNIPEG, MANITOBA BY LAURIE SANDERS

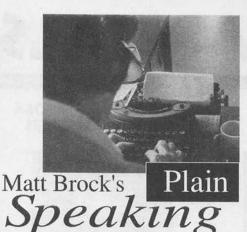


OWEN HART VS. GOLDUST



Goldust made the mistake of berating the Canadian fans at the outset of this match, but that only served to make Owen more determined to win. He didn't give Goldust a chance to do anything, as he battered him with a series of punches. Goldust never really recovered, not even when Luna tried to interfere on his behalf. 'Dust attempted to apply a sleeperhold, but Owen countered that by connecting with a low blow. Soon after, he applied the "sharpshooter" for the submission win.

OTHER BOUTS: WWF light heavyweight champ Taka Michinoku beat Brian Christopher ... Justin Bradshaw beat Kama Mustafa ... The Godwinns beat Skull & Eight-Ball ... NWA tag team champions The Headbangers beat The Quebecers ... Intercontinental champion Rocky Maivia beat Ken Shamrock ... Marc Mero beat Tom Brandi ... Kane beat Chainz ... Cactus Jack, Chainsaw Charlie, & Steve Austin beat The New Age Outlaws & Hunter Hearst Helmsley.



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hotbeds, reporting

everything he sees

without fear or favor

mazing. Spent three days here covering SuperBrawl and didn't run into a single weirdo, although one night I was walking down Market Street

when some broad moved up alongside and started gabbing about earthquakes. Didn't feel like hearing it, not right then, so I slowed down and she kept on walking. Funny thing about

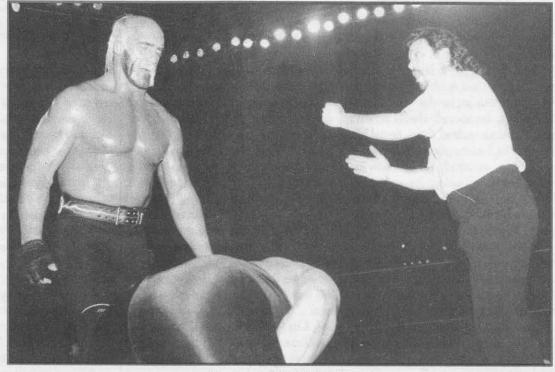
SAN FRANCISCO,

San Franciscans and earthquakes. It's almost as if they're proud of them, as if they see earthquakes as good things. Don't believe that and don't believe what they tell you about the

cable cars, either, or the trolleys, whatever they are. Nothing but tourist traps. If you want to get around San Francisco, either walk or take a cab. Better yet, stay in your hotel room and avoid the weirdoes and the tourists, which is about all San Francisco has, anyway. That and wind. Plenty of wind. Never seen so many tourists

in my life. As for SuperBrawl, it was held in the Cow Palace, a big old barn that's been around since the year of the flood and is appropriately named, because you could just imagine cows grazing in here or munching down some hay. Good place to hold a wrestling card, although this reporter isn't so sure it's built for the modern-day WCW, which seems to be favoring glitz and bright lights over just about everything else. Never thought much about Francisco wrestling fans, anyway. Los Angeles had the Olympic Auditorium, but what did San Francisco ever have? Go down your list of all-time great wrestlers and you won't find many from San Francisco. As for the card, Sting stole the WCW World heavyweight title back from Hulk Hogan, which made almost everybody happy, and Nick Patrick, the referee, proved that he's not a member of the NWO. not that he has everybody convinced yet. They say a leopard never changes his spots. Well, some wrestling people just refuse

to change their minds.



HOGAN, STING, & PATRICK





**BIGELOW vs. TAZ** 

ave Lenker once asked me if it was possible to pay attention to nothing but payper-views these days and still know everything that's going on in wrestling. Considering that WCW and the WWF are running a pay-

per-view every month and ECW is hopping on the bandwagon, too, it's just about possible, if you listen closely. ECW held its Living Dangerously payper-view here in Asbury Park, which is famous for some rock 'n' roller named Bruce Springsteen, who I've heard of but never heard. But Asbury Park is sort of like wrestling these days. Even if you never

knew anything about Springsteen until you came here, just one long walk through the city, keeping your ears and eyes open, and you'd know everything you ever needed to know, which in this reporter's book isn't much. How much do you really need to know about a guitar player? How much do you need to know about ECW? Well, know this: Bam Bam Bigelow won another big one, and if that's not earth-shaking news, I don't know what is. Bigelow's had a way during his career of choking when something big is on the line, but he didn't choke this time. He beat Taz for the ECW TV title, which isn't the most important belt in the world, or even in ECW, but for Bigelow, it's better than nothing. Maybe being in The Triple Threat isn't such a bad thing for Bigelow after all.

ometimes you just have to wonder why people do the things they do. Dusty Rhodes

joins the NWO days after criticizing them, Hulk Hogan becomes a rulebreaker. Michael Hayes, the former Freebird who now calls himself Dok Hendrix. decides to return to the ring. Spoke with Hayes a few days after he made the announcement and he couldn't give me a single

good reason why he was doing it, other than he was doing it for

charity and "just felt like it." Just felt like it is a good reason for going on a trip or having a steak instead of a hamburger, but it's not much of a reason for stepping back into the ring after you've formally retired. Haves was scheduled to take on Chris Adams. which could still be a good match, and Terry Gordy, another former Freebird, was going to take on One Man Gang, which probably won't be a good match, on the same card. Sounds to me like Haves and Gordy might have something else up their sleeves, like returning to the ring as The Fabulous Freebirds and maybe giving it one more go-round somewhere. Don't know. Hard to tell. But Hayes has never been

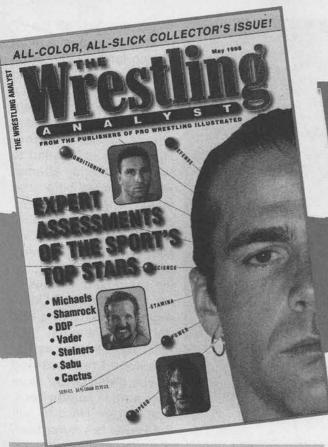
short on words, and he was this time. Don't know why.

ometimes it's just good to get back to the old town, if for no other reason than to unpack your bags, sleep in your

own bed, and maybe run into some old friends down at the Carnegie Deli. My doctor warned me about this place a long time ago, but there aren't too many better places in the world than this to just sit, eat, and talk about old times. Recharges the batteries. so to speak, and the batteries do need recharging. The other day, somebody

said to me, "Matt, you ever think about retiring?" I told him, "When I start thinking that, I'll know, and I'll retire." But that got me to thinking, and now you just never know. Everybody has to retire sometime, right? I just never saw myself with the condo in Florida, playing bridge on Tuesday nights and going for the early bird. But then again, you never know.

25



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## REVEALED!

## THE TOP STARS ANSWER YOUR MOST PERSONAL-AND OFFBEAT-QUESTIONS.

E HAD NO idea when we dreamed up this special section two years ago that we would be starting a tradition of sorts at London Publishing. Much to our (pleasant) surprise, we have found out that nothing piques the interest of the wrestling public like having today's hottest stars answer their most personal—and unusual—questions.

Judging from the stream of letters we received over the last two years, we've discovered that some of our readers were disappointed to find out that many of their favorite wrestlers were just like them—with the same fears, the same dislikes, and the same dreams. Others sounded shocked by the contrast between the real life personalities and in-ring demeanors of their favorite stars.

Whether our readers were thrilled or disappointed, the fact that so many of them responded proves two things. First, it proves that this section is rapidly becoming one of our most popular features ever, and two, that no matter how sophisticated or discerning our readership becomes, they will never turn their noses up at the juicy personal details.

Do we have any choice at INSIDE WRESTLING but to give our readers what they want?

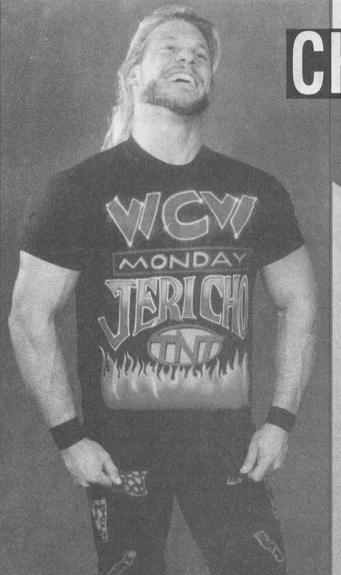
Of course not! That's why, for a third straight year, we took the time to launch some curveballs at 19 of the biggest names in the game. And for a third straight year, the answers we got were just as honest and entertaining as they were varied.

We deliberately asked Rick and Scott Steiner and Dusty and Dustin Rhodes the same questions just to see how these once-inseparable partners view life now that they are no longer so close. You might also notice that we interviewed Rocky Maivia for a second straight year. Yeah, "The Rock's" answers were good last year, but they weren't that good. We were curious to find out how success has affected Maivia's outlook on things. Certainly becoming one of the hottest new stars in the WWF has changed his way of thinking. Or has it? You decide.

You think Bill Goldberg is invincible? Well, we know one person who can back him down right away. ECW head Paul E. Dangerously hardly seems like the religious sort, but now we know what causes him to seek inspiration from above. And just when you thought that Luna Vachon had no shame, she told us the one thing that makes her blush.

So read on, wrestling fans. We hope we don't tarnish your favorite star's image. But even if we do, we know you'll appreciate this year's installment of this special section anyway. How do we know? You told us so.

INSIDE WRESTLING 27



CHRIS JERICHO

> Favorite non-wrestling tough guy ... Bob Probert (of the NHL's Chicago Blackhawks)

It's the ideal place for a week off from wrestling ...
Hawaii

Next time I meet with Bill Clinton,
I'll give him this advice ...
Appoint me as the official role model
for the youth of America

He's my all-time hero ...
Me

The pet I always wanted but never had, but there's still time to get one ...

A monkey

I hate going there ...

Monroe, Louisiana. It's the worst place in the world.

There's nothing at all to do there

I'm better than everyone at this non-wrestling-related activity ... Winning people's admiration

My new attitude lets me do this, and I am so sorry I didn't do it before ... Bully ring announcer David Penzer

Where I expect to be 10 years from now ...

Sitting with my feet up on my desk, smoking a cigar, and performing my duties as president of WCW

I swear I'll never do this again ...
Be intentionally nice to anyone

Man, she's got the greatest body ... Whisper, one of the Nitro girls

It's something children can learn from me ...

How to be the perfect role model

My first girlfriend taught me this ... How to kiss

The wildest thing I ever did at a party ... Completely trashed a friend's house

This really embarrassed

When I was brought home by the police for shooting off firecrackers in the school library

It will be written on my headstone ... Even death will not part us

> Favorite horror movie ... The Mummy's Curse

It gives me the creeps ... Seeing kids playing with matches

Life's only regret for me ...
A very unstable childhood

It's who I was before I was reincarnated ... A lost and unstable soul The only positive thing I learned from Paul Bearer ... Stay focused

It's the music of the night ...
Any new age music

I find these to be very morbid ... Long road trips

I would do this if the world was coming to an end ... Try to save the creatures of the night

Favorite scary book I read ... Mary Shelley's Frankenstein

I'd like to get face-to-face with Kane and tell him this ...

We are blood, and that will always bond us no matter where our roads lead

I wish I had more time for this ... Healing the wounds of my past

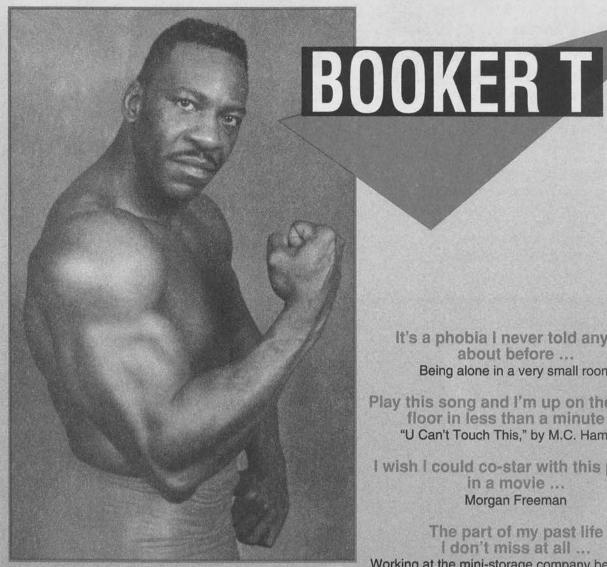
This person made the biggest impression on my life ...
My high school biology teacher

It's a waste of my time ...

Trying to convince people there is life after life

Where I expect to be 10 years from now ...
At peace with my mind and my soul





It's a phobia I never told anyone about before ... Being alone in a very small room

Play this song and I'm up on the dance floor in less than a minute ... "U Can't Touch This," by M.C. Hammer

I wish I could co-star with this person in a movie ... Morgan Freeman

The part of my past life I don't miss at all ... Working at the mini-storage company before I got into wrestling

I have never gone there. but I'll get there before too long ... The heavyweight championship of the world

It's the one thing Stevie Ray and I don't see eve-to-eve on ... Relating with the fans

When I'm approached on the street by a beggar ... I give him something

I'll never forget these words my mother told me ... Don't kiss no butt in order to get along with someone

Where I expect to be 10 years Retired from wrestling and out fishing on my boat

The first thing I think about when I get out of bed in the morning ... Having a cup of coffee

It's always made me smile ... Seeing my wife when I come home from a long trip

This gives me too much pressure ... Life

I always use this toothpaste ... Colgate

Taking time out for my 14-year-old son

If I could eat all of these. I'd become a fat pig ... 1,000 Twinkies

I'm most proud of this . Being a good father

The most disgusting thing I ever saw ...

The match between Oz and Bill Kazmaier at
Halloween Havoc 1991

It makes me melt ...

My daughter Noel's voice on the phone

If I could bang-bang someone for real, it would be ...
Saddam Hussein

No one knows I can do this ... Lecture on all the great battles of the Civil War

The conversation I had yesterday with Dude Love ...

The next time you come back, watch your diet. The Dude put 20 pounds on Cactus Jack I am proud I had my picture taken with this person ...

A little girl in a wheelchair in Pittsburgh. We took two photos—one for her, one for me

Favorite chewing gum ...
Wrigley's Winterfresh. It will cover up anything

The only reason I would shave my head bald ...

To become "Stone-Cold" Mick Foley

It's the way I got the name Cactus Jack ...

From a Kirk Douglas movie character in the movie *The Villain*. I never wanted to keep the name long, but it stuck like gum in someone's hair. I've been using it since 1985. I have a copy of the movie on videotape at home. I love it

I tell people this when they say that I'm bloodthirsty ...

That we have different opinions on what bloodthirsty means

I never leave home without it ... A pair of underwear for a 10-day road trip

It stopped me dead in my tracks ...
My last American Express credit card bill

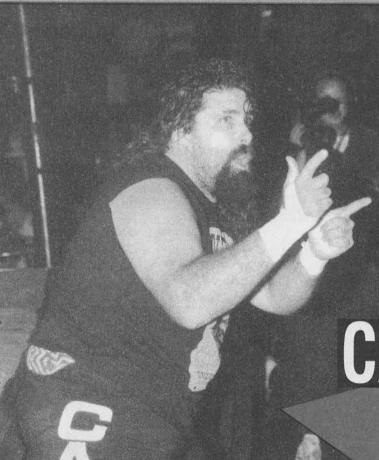
Favorite activity in high school ...

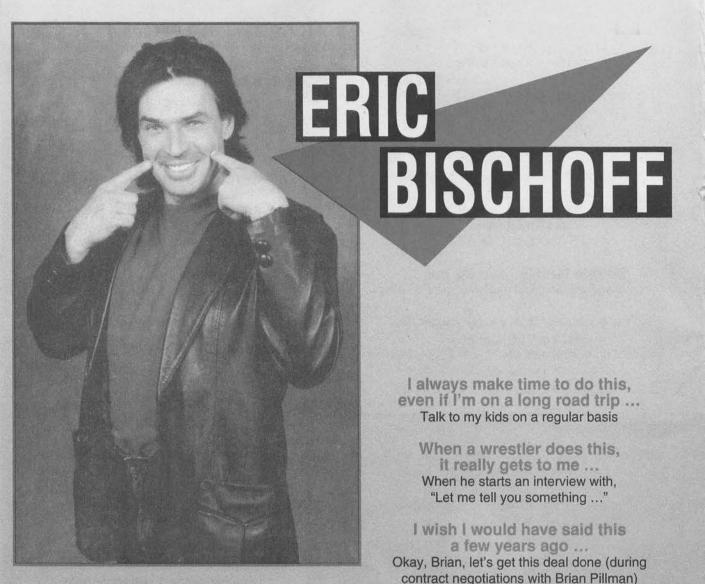
Being a part of the Ward Melville wrestling team under coach Jim McGonigle

Where I expect to be 10 years from now ...

In a recliner, with my house and all my bills paid off







I always make time to do this, even if I'm on a long road trip ... Talk to my kids on a regular basis

When a wrestler does this. it really gets to me ... When he starts an interview with, "Let me tell you something ..."

I wish I would have said this a few years ago ...

Okay, Brian, let's get this deal done (during contract negotiations with Brian Pillman)

If I hadn't been in the wrestling business, I'd probably be doing this ... Selling meat door-to-door

> Favorite musical performer ... Bruce Springsteen

The first thing I'd say to Vince McMahon if I met him face-to-face ... There is no way I'd hire you

If I owned the WWF ... It would be in much better shape than it currently is

> Jockeys or boxers ... Neither

Where I expect to be 10 years from now ... Right where I am today, and that's at the top of the world

If I could have dinner with any three people in history ...

Henry Ford, Ronald Reagan, and Monica Lewinsky

The passion that no one knows I have ... Flying

Zbyszko's really not that bad at this ... Providing some of the best color commentary in the industry

It's the best news I ever received ... It's a boy/It's a girl

The best lesson I ever learned from my parents ... There are no such things as shortcuts

Hillary Clinton

It's the most valuable thing I own ...
My word

Other than me, the most important person in the world ...

The person who dictates foreign policy to the President

It's what I learned from Jim Cornette ...
What I most don't want to be in life

The first place I'd fly to if I had a private jet ...

Right back home to New York City

If I could go back in time and make a deal with this guy, it would be ...

Groucho Marx

Wildest woman I was ever with ... I cannot name her due to fear of litigation

The news story that have never forgotten...
The end of the Vietnam War

My parents thought this was my worst character trait ...

My temper

Best violent movie I ever saw ...
The Road Warrior

This would force me to get on my knees and pray ... The Pope holding a shotgun to my head

The present someone gave me that I hated, but couldn't bring myself to tell them about it until now ...

The cheap plastic toy cellular telephone Bill Apter gave me when I first started using a cell phone at ringside

In the school playground, it was my favorite activity ...

Promoting fights between the two toughest kids in the class

I'd say this to Vince McMahon and Eric Bischoff if I were having dinner with them ... Pick up the check, boys

The most misunderstood man in the world ...

Fidel Castro. He has brought his country to 100 percent literacy, started nationwide health care, and he's the one dictator who did not rape and pillage the country for his own financial gain

Where I expect to be 10 years from now ...

Living on my own island, a few feet from Marlon Brando's island off the coast of Tahiti, with a big satellite dish, a hammock, and a beautiful deaf mute by my side

# PAUL E. DANGEROUSLY

## DUSTY RHODES



The one movie I could watch over and over again ...

Lonesome Dove

I like it, I love it, I want some more of it ... Ranching

The part of my past I really wish I could put behind me, but I can't ...

My early years in the wrestling business

Favorite cartoon ... King Of The Hill

Mama told me I'd regret this ... Living in Houston at one time in my life

I miss this person more than anyone else in my life ... My father

My sweet tooth can't get enough of this ...
Carrot cake

If I could be anyone else in history ...
John Wayne

If Dustin were right here, I'd say this to him ...

Take the trash out before your stepmom gets home

Where I expect to be 10 years from now ...

On my ranch in Texas retired, or if not in Texas, then Florida, Montana, or Colorado

Favorite place in my home ... My cigar room, and my office

If I had enough space, I'd collect every one of these ...
Cigars

A broadcaster said this about me, and I never forgot it ...

He's too fat and he's 50 years old. It was said by some broadcaster in Minneapolis about seven years ago, and I was only in my 40s

This song moves me to tears ...
"Angel Flying Too Close To The Ground,"
by Willie Nelson

I'm most proud of this ... My children Favorite place at my home ...
The woods

If I had enough space, I'd collect every one of these ... Knives

A broadcaster said this about me, and I never forgot it ...

He's the spittin' image of his dad

This song moves me to tears ...
The theme from the movie *Titanic* 

I'm most proud of this ...
The life I helped bring into this world

The one movie I could see over and over again ...

Titanic

I like it, I love it, I want some more of it ...

The WWF's cutting-edge style

The part of my past I really wish I could put behind me, but I can't ...

Not letting go of fear

Favorite cartoon ... Shazam

Mama told me I'd regret this ...
Going into wrestling

I miss this person more than anyone else in my life ... My sister Kristan

My sweet tooth can't get enough of these ... Reese's peanut butter cups

If I could be anyone else in history ...
My wife

If Dusty were right here, I'd say this to him ... I love you, Dad

Where I expect to be 10 years from now ... Up in the mountains, fishing and hunting

GOLDUST

INSIDE WRESTLING 35





I want this written on my tombstone ... He will not rest. Let us pray for his reincarnation

> My favorite performer ... George Jones

> I wish I could do this ... A flying dropkick

I could eat it daily for lunch ... Steak and eggs

The last dream I had ...

I was in a movie theater, and Kane was sitting to my left, and Undertaker to my right. We were a like a family, laughing and enjoying ourselves The person I knew early in my career who taught me to appreciate unusual people ...
The Missing Link

I think of this when I'm alone in the dark ... Where are the candles?

This is never a bother for me ...
Discussing wrestling history

I can't understand why people do this ...

They don't see my point of view and refuse to listen to what I have to say about The Undertaker

Favorite way to pass time while I'm on the road ...

Stopping in a town, going to an arcade, and watching kids playing pinball

I look back at it, and to this day I say, "Why did I do that?" ...

Dye my hair blond during my early years as a manager

The real secret of life ... Don't die

I never thought I'd see the day ... Mike Tyson in the WWF

> Favorite cowboy ... The Lone Ranger

Where I see myself 10 years from now ...

Resting in peace, *not* dead, enjoying the fruits of my labors with all my financial concerns buried six feet under

My next match

When the doctors told me I might never wrestle again, I gave this occupation

Drug abuse counseling for teens

I'd like to get a large tattoo on my body

Show me the money

This makes me really unusual ... My outlook on life

The best thing I learned on the streets ... Don't trust anybody

My closest friend ... Raven

Best movie I ever saw ... Grease

It makes me really nervous ... Nothing

> I wish I owned this ... The U.S. Federal Reserve

They'd use this as the title of my life story ...

Puzzle Pieces That Didn't Fit

I cannot do without this ... Accomplishing my goals

PERRY

I think about this when I'm alone ... One of the few things that puts a smile

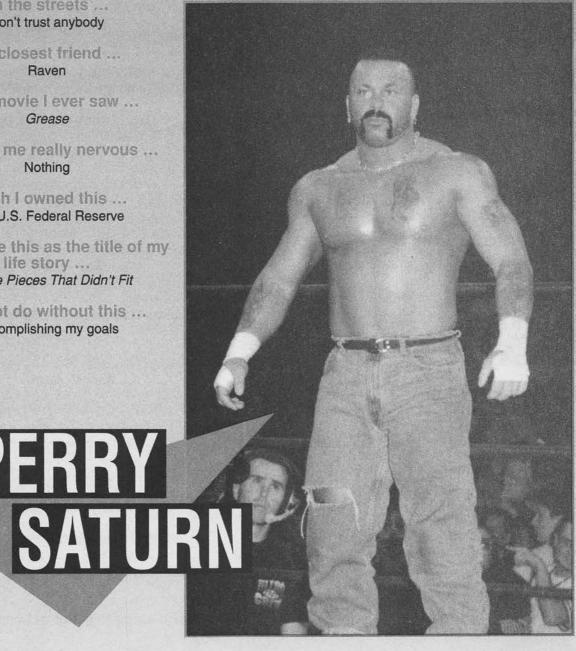
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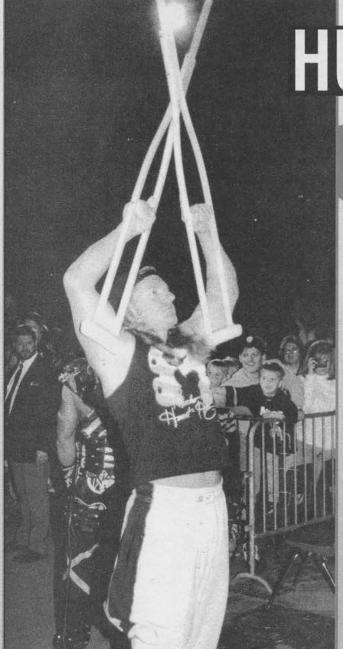
Favorite TV show when I was a kid ... Star Trek

If I could pick a guy from the past to be my tag team partner, it would be ... Arn Anderson

Where I expect to be 10 years from now ...

Still making money in WCW





HUNTER HEARST HELMSLEY

The way to a woman's heart ...
Meeting me

All hell breaks loose when someone asks me to do this ...
Turn my back on my friends

Don't play this music when I'm around ... Country

Favorite comedian ... Jim Carrey

I was shocked when I found out this person knew who I was ... Mike Tyson

It almost messed up my life ...
The famous Madison Square Garden curtain call with The Kliq

You can always count on me for this ...
A great match

Chyna is responsible for bettering this part of my life ...

Just about everything

This other occupation that would have been a natural for me ...

A Hollywood legend

The nickname my friends used to have for me ...

Because of my hair color, they called me "Whitey"

Where I expect to be 10 years from now ...
Still enjoying my long reign as world champion

It's not hard to get me to do this at a social function ...

Become the center of attention

If you do this, I'll curse you out ... Spit at me

I always order this in a Chinese restaurant ...

The hottest-looking waitress

The most important message ever left on my answering machine ...

Yes

about my shaved head ... It's low maintenance

Dumbest thing I ever did as a kid ... Cut my own hair. You see the end result

When people mistake me for Steve Austin, I say this ... Has Steve Austin lived the last 15 years of my life?

The only person alive who can make me back down ... My dad

> This kind of music makes my skin crawl ... Disco

George Wallace

It was worth sweating for ... Making it to the NFL

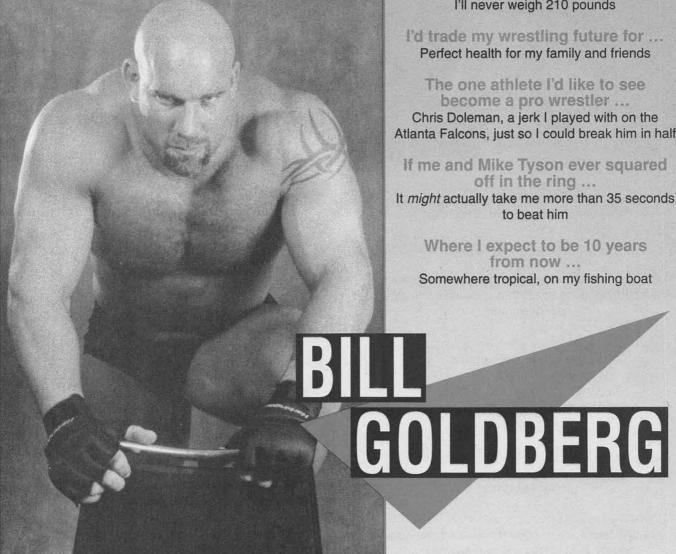
I ever experienced ... What to do with my life after the NFL

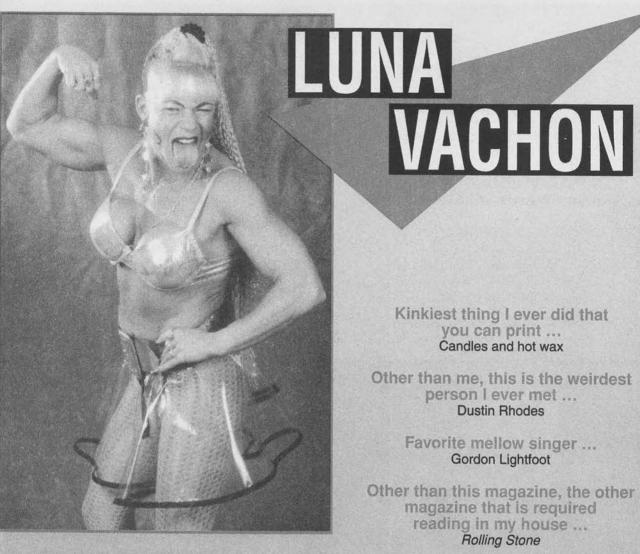
Best surprise I ever got ... Getting my first letter from the NFL (from the Raiders)

> My nastiest habit ... Dipping Copenhagen

I've resigned myself to realize this will never happen ... I'll never weigh 210 pounds

Chris Doleman, a jerk I played with on the Atlanta Falcons, just so I could break him in half





Kinkiest thing I ever did that you can print ... Candles and hot wax

Other than me, this is the weirdest person I ever met ... **Dustin Rhodes** 

> Favorite mellow singer ... Gordon Lightfoot

Other than this magazine, the other magazine that is required reading in my house ... Rolling Stone

If I were compared to an animal, it would be this ... A wolverine

Favorite dental procedure ... Capped fangs

If I could be anyone else in history ... Janis Joplin

If I could have three quests at a fabulous restaurant to dine with ... Einstein, Picasso, and Vampire Warrior

I wish the executives in the

There is more depth to Lunacy than they can ever realize

Where I expect to be 10 years from now ...

Far away from the rubber-Ramada lifestyle I live now

The only thing that makes me blush ... When my boobs fall out of my shirt

The one thing I'd change about my appearance ...

Nothing. I am perfect just the way I am. I represent the beauty and the beast that is inside or outside every woman

My voice is sexy to this person ... My own personal vampire

Marlena doesn't know this. but me and Dustin ... Talk in tongues

I regret that I never got to do this Establish roots

If I were locked in a room with Sable ...

I'd wash her makeup off and find out if she's as pretty inwardly as she is outwardly

Favorite bad neighborhood . New York's Little Italy

It hurt my feelings

When this magazine nixed a photo shoot with me at a bodybuilding contest that I was in and was going to win

Favorite procedure at doctor's office ...
The scope

I once did this on an airplane and almost got arrested ...

I tried to rip the oxygen mask down because I felt lightheaded

It's what I still take into the bathtub with me ...
Rubber ducky

This movie always makes me cry ...
Lassie Come Home

It stinks ...

I'll never forget the odor of Andre the Giant's breath after he ate garlic

1'd get out of the car and run 15 miles for this ... A good look at Sable

It would be the title of a Broadway play about my career ...
The Sound Of Bones

The only other wrestler in history who I can safely say smells—or smelled—worse than me ...

Dick the Bruiser

My favorite bedtime cuddly ...
Mine

If Elizabeth were standing here right now, I'd tell her this ...

There was some confusion way back then. The only reason I wanted her is because my wife refuses to do windows

This person still wants to meet me ...

The original Gorgeous George, but it ain't gonna happen for a while

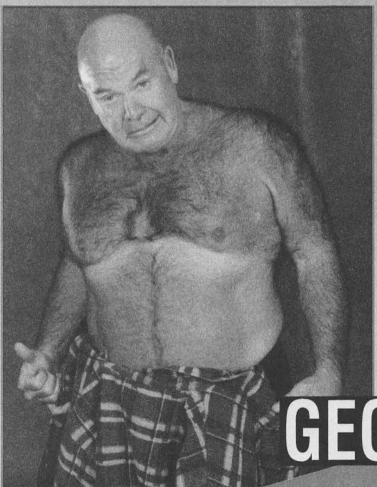
The first aisle I go to in a supermarket ...

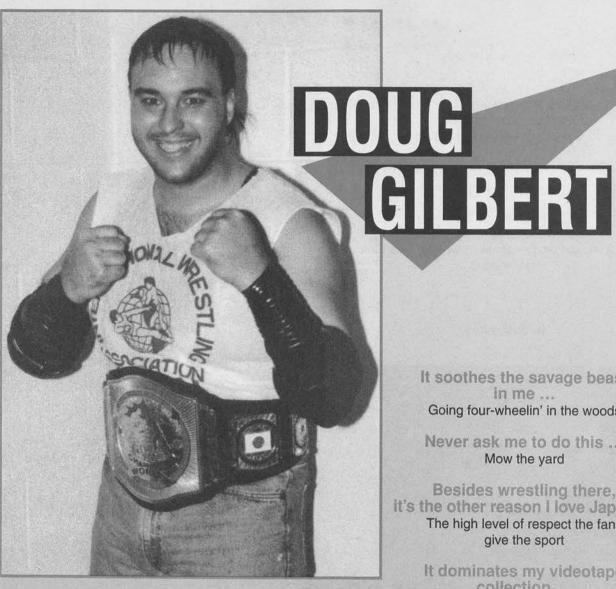
The one time I went, I went right to the meat department

Where I expect to be 10 years from now ...

Lying on the beach, watching the girls in bikinis pass me by

GEORGE
STEELE





It soothes the savage beast in me ...

Going four-wheelin' in the woods

Never ask me to do this ... Mow the yard

Besides wrestling there, it's the other reason I love Japan ...

The high level of respect the fans give the sport

It dominates my videotape collection ...

Three volumes of Eddie Gilbert matches

The hobby I wish I had time for ... Skiing

The ugliest person I ever saw ... **Dutch Mantel** 

My parents always yelled at me for doing this ... Being too hyper

The most important lesson I learned from Eddie ...

To respect the sport and give your whole life to it while you're doing it

As an American wrestling talent scout who supplies Japan with wrestlers

It's my favorite way to torture an opponent ... Gouging his eyes

The one thing I hate about myself ... I'm too nice

I'd love to move in with her ... Pamela Anderson

It's the most rotten thing I've ever done ...

Run Jerry Lawler over with a car

Favorite country music singer ... Garth Brooks

I'd quit the sport if this ever happened ...

When I turn 30 years old. I'm 28 now, and when I'm 30, I will no longer be an active wrestler

Fans are always asking me this question ... Where do you by your clothes?

> Frederick's of Hollywood or Victoria's Secret ... Both

I've never revealed this to anyone before now ...

I'm not big on partying

The one thing that Shane Douglas does that ticks me off ...

Hogs the microphone

I wouldn't mind doing a hot-and-heavy love scene in a movie with him ...

Tom Berenger

I always get grief from people for this ... My attitude

I like to lie in bed at night and do this Think about I can incorporate myself

into the matches more often

I've never done this in public, but I will

Show all the fans what I think about them

If I had to have a regular 9-to-5 job, I guess this is what I'd be doing ...

Working as a day care teacher

The most heartwrenching thing I ever saw ...
My grandmom dying

Pizza with lots of extra cheese

It's my way of relaxing ...

Lying in bed and watching TV with the remote in my hand

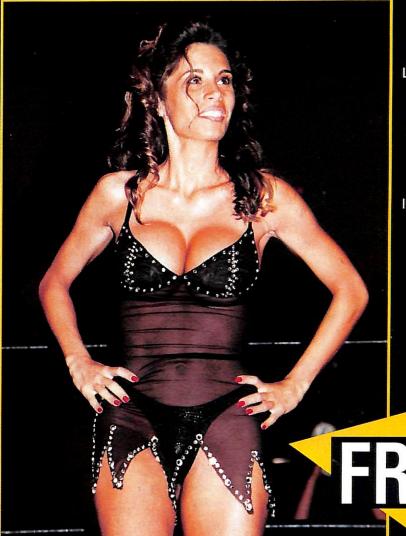
This makes me really nasty ...

All the fans who think they know everything about me and the business

If I were First Lady ...

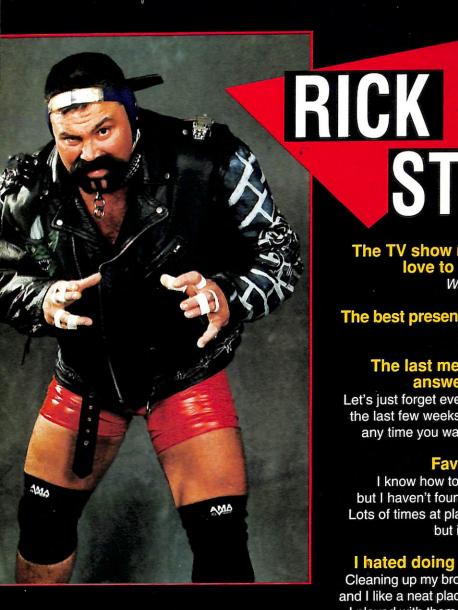
I'd pass a law to get ECW on national TV and get it world title recognition

Where I expect to be 10 years from now ...
To be married with kids



FRANCINE

INSIDE WRESTLING



My most lovable pet ...
My pit bull, Lex

The most important thing I learned from my brother, Scott ...

Cherish your roots

Every time I watch this movie, I wind up crying ... National Velvet with Elizabeth Taylor

I'd love to join this club ...
The Rugrats fan club

The saddest thing that ever

happened to me, other than Scotty joining the NWO ...
When Sandy, my goldfish, who I had for almost two years, suddenly died. I know a lot of people will think that's weird—having feelings for a fish—but they really existed. It was very mutual

The TV show my brother and I used to love to watch together ...

Wheel Of Fortune

STEINER

The best present my brother ever got me ...
A gold watch

The last message I left on Scott's answering machine ...

Let's just forget everything that happened with us in the last few weeks. You can come over for dinner any time you want. Call me back soon, Scotty

## Favorite dance ...

I know how to do the cha-cha really well, but I haven't found a girl who can do it with me. Lots of times at places I go to dance, I do it alone, but it don't bother me

## I hated doing this when I was a kid ...

Cleaning up my brother's room. He was real messy, and I like a neat place. I always put my toys back after I played with them. He'd leave 'em on the floor and hope one of our parents would trip over something

## Where I'd go if I left WCW ...

I'd take a bus to Cincinnati, transfer to a bus to Michigan, and go home

I think about this when I'm alone in the woods ...

Climbing all the trees

It's the dream team I've always wanted to see ...

My dog, Lex, marrying Lassie and raising a healthy family of puppies

The nickname I wish I had ...

Where I expect to be 10 years from now ...

At a McDonald's playground, jumping into the colored balls

## My most lovable pet ...

Most domestic animals bother me

## The most important thing I learned from my brother, Rick ...

Try not to think too hard before a match because it'll get your nerves worked up

## Every time I watch this movie, I wind up crying ...

True Lies. I cry because I should have had the part that Arnold Schwarzenegger had

## I'd love to join this club ...

Besides the NWO, it would have to be an exclusive men's cigar club

## The saddest thing that ever happened to me, other than being unable to get my brother, Rick, to join the NWO ...

Looking back at the years of friendship I could have had sooner from Kevin Nash, Scott Hall, and Hollywood Hogan

## The TV show my brother and I used to love to watch together ...

Hogan's Heroes

## The best present I ever gave my brother ...

A gold watch last year, with detailed instructions on how to tell time

## The last message I left on Rick's answering machine ...

I'm having my number changed. Don't try to get my new one from any of my friends

## Favorite dance ...

The two-step on my opponent's face

## Where I'd go if I left WCW/NWO ...

To the highest bidder

## SCOTT STEINER

## I hated doing this when I was a kid ...

Watching my brother clean my room and yell, "You shouldn't just be standing there. Help me clean your room. You're a slob. Clean up your life!" I wish I could forget that, but it still sticks in my gut today. He acted more like a boss than a brother

## I think about this when I'm alone in the woods ...

Knocking down the trees and building a gym on the property

## It's the dream team I've always wanted to see ...

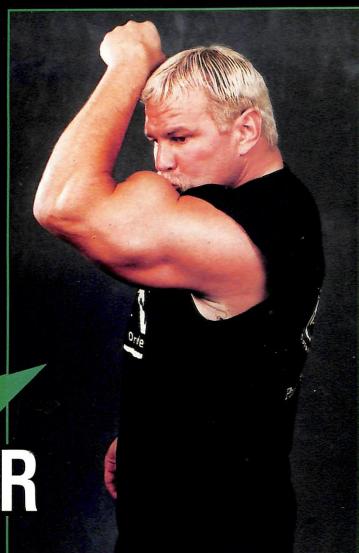
Both Steiner brothers in the NWO

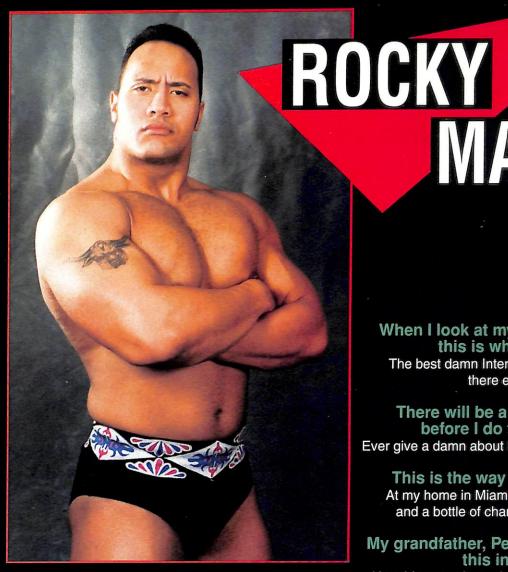
## The nickname I wish I had ...

Superstar Scotty

## Where I expect to be 10 years from now ...

In my own mansion on Mr. Bischoff's huge NWO estate





When I think of this, it really makes my blood boil ...

Adults who are inconsiderate of the needs of children

She gives me the chills ...
A woman named Puskins

The one piece of advice my father gave me that I did not listen to ...

Don't spend your money on something that you have an immediate impulse to buy

The only thing that really hurts my feelings ...

When kids are the victims of racial prejudice, no matter what color they are

I wish I could make this disappear ...
Signs that say, "Rocky sucks"

When I look at myself in the mirror, this is what I see ...

MAVA

The best damn Intercontinental champion there ever was

There will be a cold day in hell before I do this again ...

Ever give a damn about how people feel about me

This is the way I like to party ...

At my home in Miami, Puskins in one arm, and a bottle of champagne in the other

My grandfather, Peter Maivia, instilled this in me ...

He told me to always be proud of what you are and who you are

If I were Vince McMahon ...
I'd give "The Rock" a big raise

It's the dream match I would have bought a front row seat to see ... Peter Maivia vs. Rocky Johnson

Favorite recreational sport ...
Light tackle fishing

Favorite non-wrestling website ...

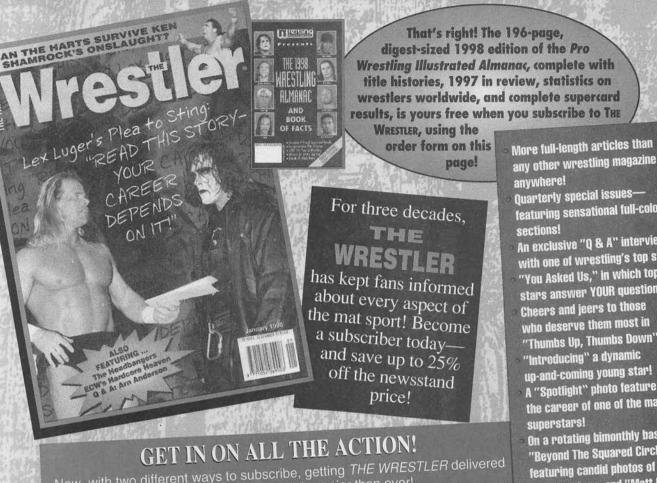
GO online

I want this for Christmas ...
A new house in Miami right on the water

Where I expect to be 10 years from now ...

Happy, healthy, successful, and considered the best at my craft

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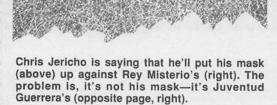
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# CHRIS JERICHO: "I'LL PUT UP MY MASK AGAINST MISTERIO'S!"





What's the deal with Chris Jericho? All of a sudden, he thinks he's a masked wrestler which might be funny, except for the fact that this is just one disturbing element of a very disturbed wrestler



## By Dave Rosenbaum

HAT'S WRONG WITH Chris Jericho? Well, that all depends upon whom you ask.

If you ask Chris Jericho, there's absolutely nothing wrong with Chris Jericho.

"Everything's just right," he said. "I've got the WCW cruiserweight title. The people love me. And I've got this brand-new mask."

He said that while holding up the mask he stole from Juventud Guerrera after retaining the cruiserweight title at SuperBrawl VIII.

And that, friends, is one of the things that's wrong with Chris Jericho.

He thinks he has a mask.

"He's crazy," Guerrera said shortly after losing the match to Jericho that forced him to unmask for the first time. "Maybe I made a mistake putting up my mask just to get a shot at Jericho, but it was worth it. I'd do it again."

If he had a mask, that is.

Which he doesn't.

If you ask Rey Misterio Jr., who was to be sidelined for five months after he suffered a left knee injury at the hands of Jericho at Souled Out, you'll hear other ideas about what's wrong with Chris Jericho:

"A lot," Misterio said. "A whole bunch. I mean, slamming a toolbox against a man's knee, intentionally trying to injure him, for no reason at all? That's not wrestling. It's trash. It's thuggery. Jericho's out of his mind.

"But that's okay. I'll get him for this. It doesn't matter how long I'm out of action. Three months. Five months. A year. Five years. I'll get my revenge, and it's gonna be sweet, and it's gonna be on Jericho's head."

As for Jericho? Well, he apologized for injuring Misterio. Over and over again.

Yeah, right.

He did apologize, but his apologies certainly didn't sound sincere.

息

Jericho seemed pleased that the damage he caused Misterio was so great that Misterio had to undergo surgery to receive a new anterior cruciate ligament. The surgery left Misterio on crutches.

Now, again: What's wrong with Chris Jericho?

"Nothing a little attitude adjustment wouldn't fix," Guerrera said. "I don't know if it's going to happen from me or from Rey, but it's gonna happen. Maybe we'll both take care of business. But I know for a fact that turnabout is fair play, and there's

gonna De some serious turnabout. What happened to Rey is gonna happen threefold to Jericho.

Jericho's most recent attitude adjustment took place several months ago, when he switched from fan favorite to rulebreaker. Not that Jericho acknowledged the switch. He still expects the fans to cheer him whenever he shows his face, and he refers to the boding minions as his "Jericho-holics." Asked by a print reporter how he felt about retaining the belt at SuperBrawl, Jericho-responded, "I couldn't

Guerrera seemed as if he would win the cruiserweight title at SuperBrawl, but he came up just a bit short. Jericho said his Jericho-holics inspired him. Right.



have done it without the help of all my Jericho-holics."

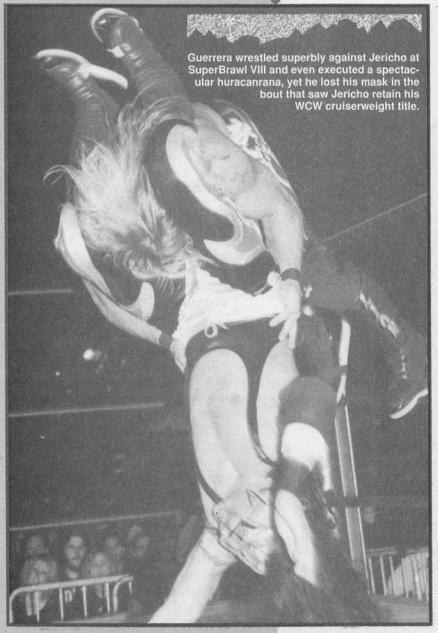
So of all the things that are wrong with Jericho, one of the worst is that he's living in a dream world.

For example. Apologies aside, he'd love to get his hands on Misterio once Misterio comes back.

Said Jericho: "I'll put my up my mask against Misterio's. I have no problem doing it. If he beats me, he gets my mask."

Uh, Chris, you don't have a mask. That's Guerrera's mask that you've been wearing around your neck during some of your matches. And nobody cares about you unmasking, because we've been seeing you without a mask for the past seven years.

"The other day I saw Jericho sitting in a restaurant eating lunch," said WCW commentator Mike Tenay. "You're not going to believe this, but he was wearing his WCW cruiserweight title belt. I mean, it's one thing to



In his first match without a mask, Guerrera faced Chavo Guerrero Jr. The lack of mask didn't hamper his ring style at all.



have pride in your championship, but that's going a little too far."

Responded Jericho: "Hey, I was wearing a belt to hold up my pants."

Right, Chris. A championship belt. Who does that?

"I do it," Jericho said, "and I can do whatever I want to do. Nobody had ever before gotten Juvi to unmask. Did you see what he did after the match? He thanked his father, who wrestled for 20 years in Mexico and never once lost his mask. Well, it ain't 'like father, like son,' because I made him do the impossible, and you know what? I could make his father unmask, too."

Uh, Chris? Juventud Guerrera's father doesn't wrestle in WCW.

"Right," Jericho said. "Handy excuse."

Such ridiculous behavior by Jericho has become par for his course. During the match against Guerrera at SuperBrawl, he seemed distracted, and he appeared to be trying to get himself counted out so he could retain the belt. Then he turned it up a notch, relaxed, turned it up another notch, and seemed more concerned with embarrassing Guerrera than beating him. Guerrera put on an aerial show and embarrassed Jericho by scoring on a jump reverse sidekick that nearly knocked the wind out of Jericho, but the champ didn't seem to care.

"I had the Jericho-holics on my side," he quipped.

Finally, Jericho humiliated

Guerrera during the unmasking ceremony. And then he issued his odd challenge to Misterio.

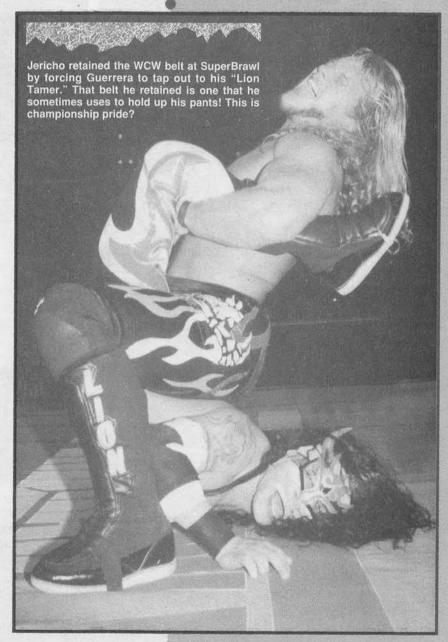
"I could beat Misterio with one leg tied behind my back," Jericho said.

That would seem only fair. After all, Misterio only has one good leg right now. Jericho ruined the other.

"Yeah," Jericho said, laughing. "But I did apologize ... and I still feel terrible about it."

Once more, we have to ask the question: What's wrong with Chris Jericho?

Just about everything.



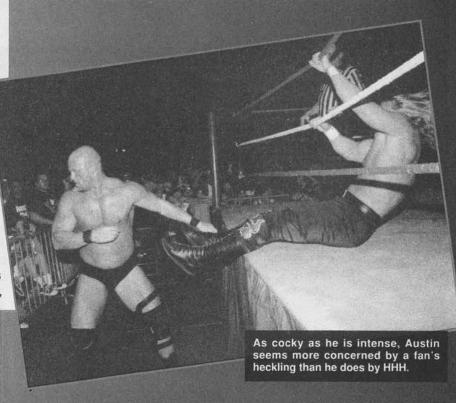
## Every Time Every Time HHHI, He Stuns HHHI, He Stuns Feels Michaels Feels The Pain!

Hunter Hearst Helmsley
has been the victim of
several "Stone-Cold
stunners" in recent
months. Steve Austin
may be causing HHH
some physical pain, but
it's Shawn Michaels
who can't escape the
mental anguish

## By Harry Burkett

T STRIKES IN an instant, but for the victim, it all seems to happen in slow motion. In this case, Hunter Hearst Helmsley's nose and jaw take the brunt of a "Stone-Cold stunner" as Shawn Michaels groans and covers his face with his hands.

This scene has been replayed time and again in arenas nationwide. It's happened in occasional singles matches between Austin and Helmsley,



Put a fork in Hunter Hearst Helmsley: He's done. Steve Austin's "Stone-Cold stunner" chalks up another victory. and it's occurred in tag team matches that have pitted De-Generation X against Steve Austin and his partner for the evening: The Undertaker, Ken Shamrock, Owen Hart, or someone else. Granted, there hasn't been much communication between Austin and his unlikely partners. Then again, teamwork hasn't been very necessary. The "Stone-Cold stunner" is the only partner he ever really needs.

Does Helmsley realize he is taking the brunt of punishment intended for Michaels?

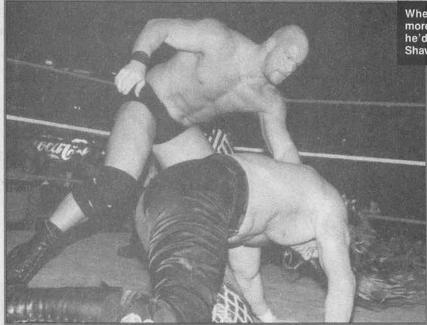
"I find it amazing that someone is actually concerned about my well-being," said Helmsley. "Austin is such a fool. I have allowed him to give me a taste of his oh, so scary 'Stone-Cold stunner.' You know what? It's no big deal, my friend. I just pop off the canvas, ready to rumble again. Austin can't hang with us."

Perhaps amnesia is another effect of the "stunner." For anyone wondering about the devastating effects of this move, one look at Michaels' face can provide ample explanation. Every time Helmsley

eats another "stunner," Michaels stomps his feet and yells at the top of his lungs. It seems like Michaels is lamenting more than a pinfall loss.

There is no doubt DX, or at least Michaels, has followed a definitive strategy in every encounter. Michaels has usually made a point to engage Austin early, then allow Helmsley to wrestle him in the later stages. Once the match has gone beyond the 10-minute mark, Michaels has concentrated on wrestling Austin's partner-but not "Stone-Cold" himself. Austin almost got to use the "stunner" on Michaels on several occasions, but "The Heartbreak Kid" has always had enough energy to escape the move.

Michaels' cat-and-mouse games during these arena shows have failed in two respects. First, the 279-pound Helmsley often ran out of oxygen in the later stages of these matches. Michaels, known for his enormous reserves of stamina, would have been much better able to compete at those points, which is why Helmsley has felt the "stunner" so often. Second, the



When Austin has Helmsley weakened, he's more than eager to move in for the kill ... but he'd much rather make the killing move on Shawn Michaels.

chaels' ploy.

"I don't give a damn what kind of stupid plan these jerks come up with," he said. "If Helmsley wants to take a fall for Michaels, that's his stupidity, not mine. I don't give a damn if it's Helmsley, Mike Tyson, Chyna, Michaels, or Michaels' housekeeper. Anybody dumb enough to get in the way of 'Stone-Cold' is gonna get their lights knocked out ... and that's the bottom line!"

Sources close to DX confirm rumors that Michaels asked his

ordeal of absorbing a half-dozen

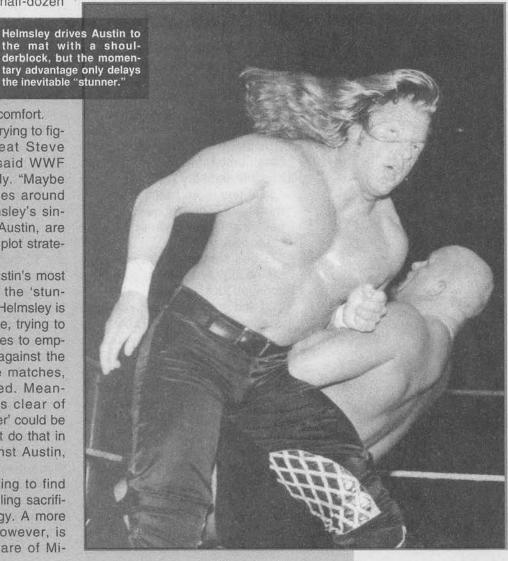
"stunners" in a relatively short amount of time has left Helmsley in considerable pain. Ice packs can only do so much to

soothe the lingering discomfort.

"Michaels has been trying to figure out ways to defeat Steve Austin for months," said WWF broadcaster Kevin Kelly. "Maybe these tag team matches around the country, and Helmsley's singles matches against Austin, are opportunities for DX to plot strategy against 'Stone-Cold.'

"Everyone knows Austin's most formidable weapon is the 'stunner," Kelly continued. "Helmsley is fighting Austin toe-to-toe, trying to get close to him. He tries to employ different defenses against the 'stunner' during these matches, but none have worked. Meanwhile, Michaels stays clear of Austin when the 'stunner' could be most effective. He can't do that in singles matches against Austin, though."

It would be interesting to find out if Helmsley is a willing sacrificial lamb in this strategy. A more important question, however, is whether Austin is aware of Mi-



54 INSIDE WRESTLING



Austin is as intense in his mat wrestling as he is in his interviews. And off to the side, outside the photo's frame, Michaels is probably wincing in pain more than Helmsley is!

physician about the potential effects of a "Stone-Cold stunner" during a recent visit. Michaels is worried that such a move would severely aggravate the two herniated disks he suffered a few months ago. He is also aware of the fact that Helmsley, who has upper-body definition superior to that of Michaels, would be much better able to resist the impact of a "stunner." He knows first-hand that reviving Helmsley afterward was no easy task.

"I'm smart enough to know that Michaels is quaking in his sissy little cowboy boots, just wondering when I'm gonna stun him," said Austin. "Well, Shawn can take all the precautions he wants. He can wear a football helmet, a miner's hat, or a damn suit of body armor for all I care. He might just spend the whole match avoiding the 'stunner,' but then I'll smack him with a lead pipe. Then again, maybe I won't. Hell, everybody

can just read the doctor's report to find out what the hell I'll do to him!"

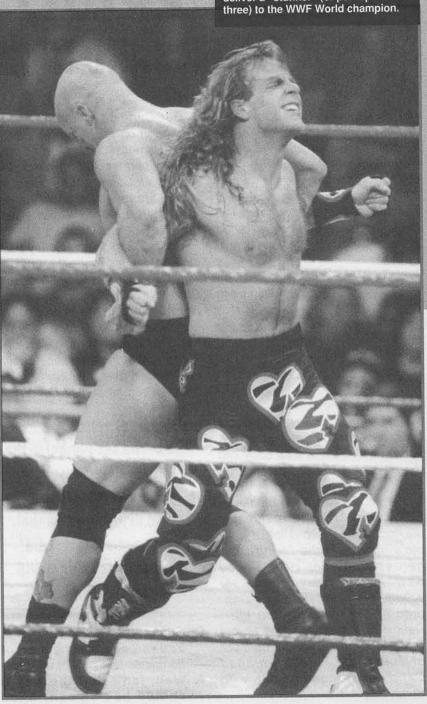
Michaels and Helmsley are said to be closer than brothers. This seems true whenever Austin grabs the back of HHH's head to deliver a "stunner." Both Helmsley and Michaels' eyes grow as large as saucers, and their mouths drop open in "stunned" disbelief. But at least Helmsley's semi-conscious state eases his physical pain. Mi-

chaels' mental anguish continues.

"The Heartbreak Kid" isn't above putting his best friend's body on the line. In fact, Michaels will do anything to save his own neck.

Even if it means breaking Helmsley's in the process.

Michaels engages Austin in a test of strength. The real test will come, though, when "Stone-Cold" is able to deliver a "stunner" (or perhaps two or three) to the WWF World champion.



## (HOTSEAT)

## SUNNY

## "I'M RAW AND HARDCORE"

T ALL DEPENDS upon your perspective. Sunny is either the most beautiful and desirable woman in wrestling or the most evil. This much, however, is certain: She is among the most influential figures—male or female—in the entire sport. She has made an impact on both the WWF and ECW.

In the WWF, she managed The Bodydonnas to the World tag team title in 1996 before jumping ship and joining the new champs, the Godwinns. Her betrayals, first of The Bodydonnas, then of the Godwinns, enraged both teams.

These days, Sunny's on-camera duties in the WWF are limited to guest ring announcer on Raw Is War, but there are strong indications she's about to step back into the managerial ranks, perhaps as leader of The Road Warriors.

Her impact has been greater in ECW, where The Triple Threat is playing games with a lot of people's minds. At the Living Dangerously pay-per-view, Lance Storm and a mystery partner were scheduled to wrestle Chris Candido and his mystery partner. Candido's turned out to be Shane Douglas. Storm, a former member of The Triple Threat, enraged Candido by coming out with Sunny.

But Candido would have the last laugh on this night, as Sunny turned against Storm. Storm and his new partner, Al Snow, won the match, but Sunny got her shots in, hitting Storm with a cookie sheet just when it looked like she was going to hit Candido.

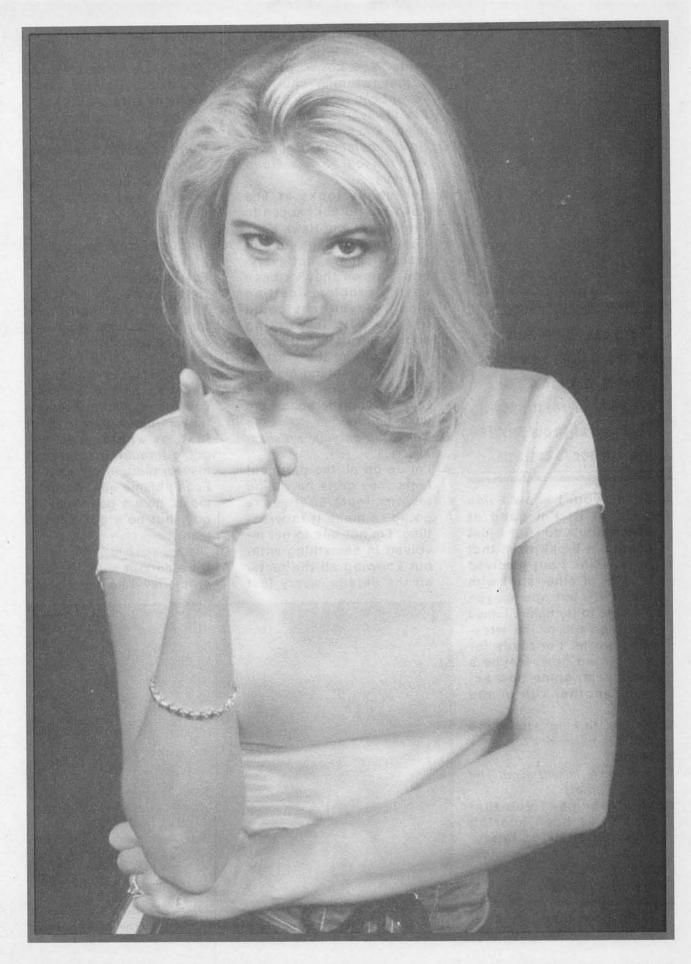
So it's Candido and Sunny back together in The Triple Threat along with Douglas, Francine, and Bam Bam Bigelow, another recent returnee. And in the WWF, everybody's waiting for Sunny to make her next move. What will it be? That's one of the questions Editorin-Chief Dave Lenker asked Sunny when he placed her on the "Hotseat."

"I've been a sex symbol in the WWF for a long time now, and I never wanted to be known as just a sex symbol. Lest people forget, I did manage three WWF World tag team champions."

- Q: Sunny, thanks for your time. You've been making a lot of headlines lately. A lot of news.
- A: Well, isn't that the way it should be? I mean, when

you're me, you're always at the center of the storm, if you'll excuse the pun. These days, I have a few things going on all fronts. I'm a star on Monday nights on Raw in the WWF, and on a lot of weekends, I'm hardcore in ECW. I guess you could say I'm raw and hardcore!

- Q: Indeed you are. Let's talk about the raw part first, specifically Raw Is War. You seem to be on the verge of becoming more active again in the WWF. At least that's what I'm hearing.
- A: There are only so many hoots and hollers a girl can stand.
- Q: Really? I hadn't noticed.
- A: Well, I had. I've been a sex symbol in the WWF for a long time now, and I never wanted to be known as just a sex symbol. Lest people forget, I did manage three WWF World tag team champions. I was the reason they were so successful, you know.
- Q: We remembered all that stuff.
  Why did you decide to get
  away from managing for such
  a long time? You were obviously good at it. You were
  voted Manager of the Year for
  1996 in PWI.





"Chris and I have a private life. We're close. Everybody knows that. That's all everybody needs to know. What goes on in our private life is nobody's business."

- A: Thank you. I know I was good at it. I'm good at everything I do. But I just needed a break from that for a while. I got involved in a lot of other stuff with the WWF, but now maybe it's time to try again. I miss being on top of the wrestling world. I'm ready for something new. Maybe a new team, some new action, another run at the gold.
- Q: You're talking about the World tag team title?
- A: Maybe.
- Q: And you're talking about The Road Warriors.
- A: Whatever gave you that idea? I've been hearing that rumor a lot lately. Those guys are my friends, but ...
- Q: Well, is it true?
- A: Maybe it is, maybe it isn't. Right now, there are a lot of things on my mind. May-

- be I'll take over an existing team, maybe I'll form a new team. You know, put together two men who have never been together before. I've always had an eye for talent, you know.
- Q: So I understand. But have you looked at The Road Warriors?
- A: Everybody looks at The Road Warriors. I happen to like Animal and Hawk a lot. They're good guys and great wrestlers, but everybody knows they've been having problems getting along. Maybe they could use my help in working some stuff out. You know, they're one of the greatest teams in wrestling history, maybe the greatest, and they've won the belts here twice before.
- **Q:** You're up on your wrestling history.
- A: I'm up on all the pertinent facts. You gotta be willing to some research if you're going to make it in wrestling. I'm not one to get involved in something without knowing all the facts, all the details, every last

- one of them. It's part of my job, knowing the facts. That's why I've been so successful. Nothing catches me by surprise.
- Q: So, switching to another subject, namely ECW, that thing with Lance Storm at Living Dangerously, that couldn't have been spur of the moment. It was all planned, wasn't it?
- A: Of course.
- Q: And Candido knew all about it?
- A: Every detail.
- Q: He's a good actor.
- A: The best. Or, shall I say, the second best. Nobody's as good as I am.
- Q: So why did Storm even ask you to be his partner?
- A: Because he's a fool. Because he's a man. Because he was blinded by love, or lust, or whatever it was going through that heart of his. He thought I liked him. I can't blame him for that. I mean, he's a good-looking guy, but he's got a lot to learn.
- Q: Did you like him?
- A: On a certain level, but not on the level he was hoping



Sunny, as Jerry Lawler will tell you, is never shy about making her presence known on Raw telecasts. She's now ready to resume her managerial career in the WWF.

for. Actually I felt sorry for him.

Q: Why?

A: Because he's a fool. An outcast. Because he allows himself to trust people and thinks that's enough, as if just because you trust someone means that they can't betray you. He should know that's not true.

Q: I guess if he didn't know it before, he knows it now after what he's gone through with The Triple Threat and you.

A: Well, everybody learns their lesson somehow. He learned it the hard way.

Q: Did he ever. Although he won the match.

A: And lost me. Not that he ever had me.

Q: But one thing strikes me as kind of odd in this situation. You really seem to order Chris Candido around when you're together. You really got in his face a few times before the whole ruse was revealed at Living Dangerously. What about that?

A: What do you want to know?

Q: Was that serious or was that acting?

A: Maybe.

Q: Maybe? Maybe what?

A: Maybe you don't have to know everything. Maybe some things you just need to toss around in your head and figure out for yourself. Chris and I have a private life. We're close. Everybody knows that. That's all everybody needs to know. What goes on in our private lives is nobody's business.

Q: Some people can't understand that.

A: They have no choice. I'm not getting into details here.

Q: But you wear the pants in this household, right?

A: Honey, you've seen how I dress. If I wear the pants in any household, it's only in a figurative sense. I'm not one to cover up what I've got. I've got a great body. You guys must know that by now. I saw that "PWI Poll" you did this year. Who was voted the sexiest

woman in wrestling? It was me, Sunny. No one else was even close to me in the voting. The wrestling experts, whoever they are, know that I'm the best.

Q: I'm sure a lot of the

"Honey, you've seen how I dress. If I wear the pants in any household, it's only in a figurative sense. I'm not one to cover up what I've got."

fans out there agree with the results of that question. But we're not going to get an answer to this question, are we?

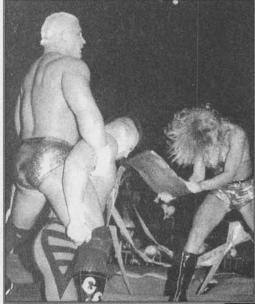
A: I guess not.

Q: Then I'm out of questions.

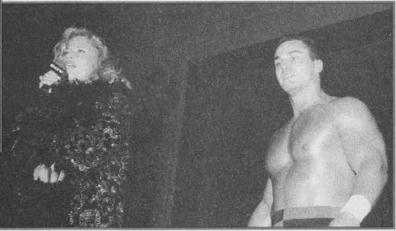
A: Fine

Q: And good luck with whatever you do in the WWF.

A: Luck is something I don't need. A couple of good men will do.



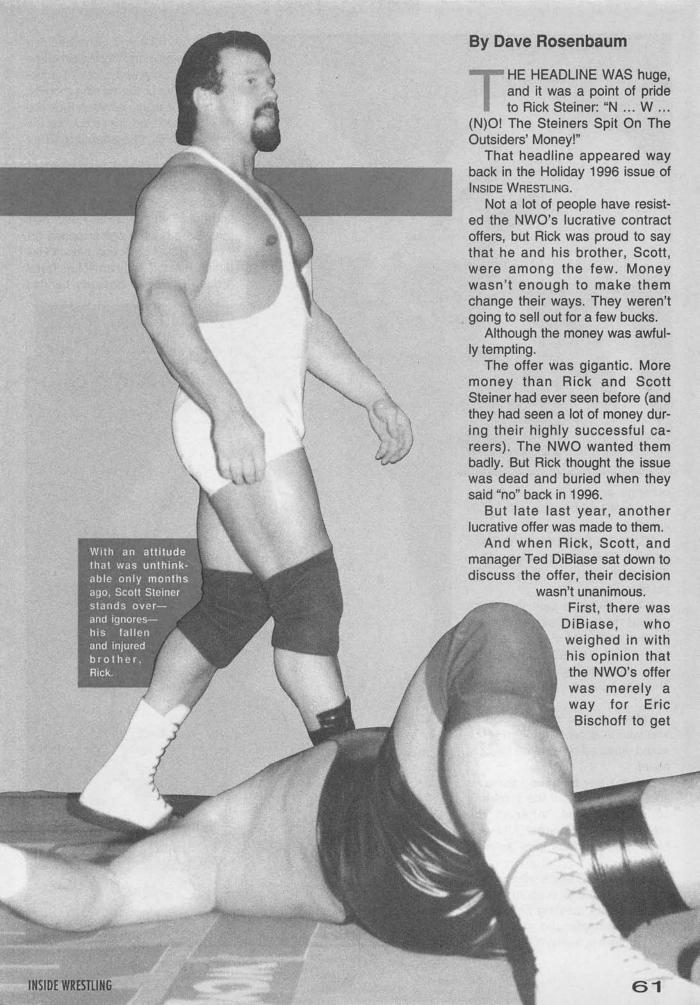
Lance Storm thought he could trust Sunny during the brief time in which she supported him in ECW (right). He found out otherwise at Living Dangerously, when Sunny smashed him in the head with a cookie cutter (above).

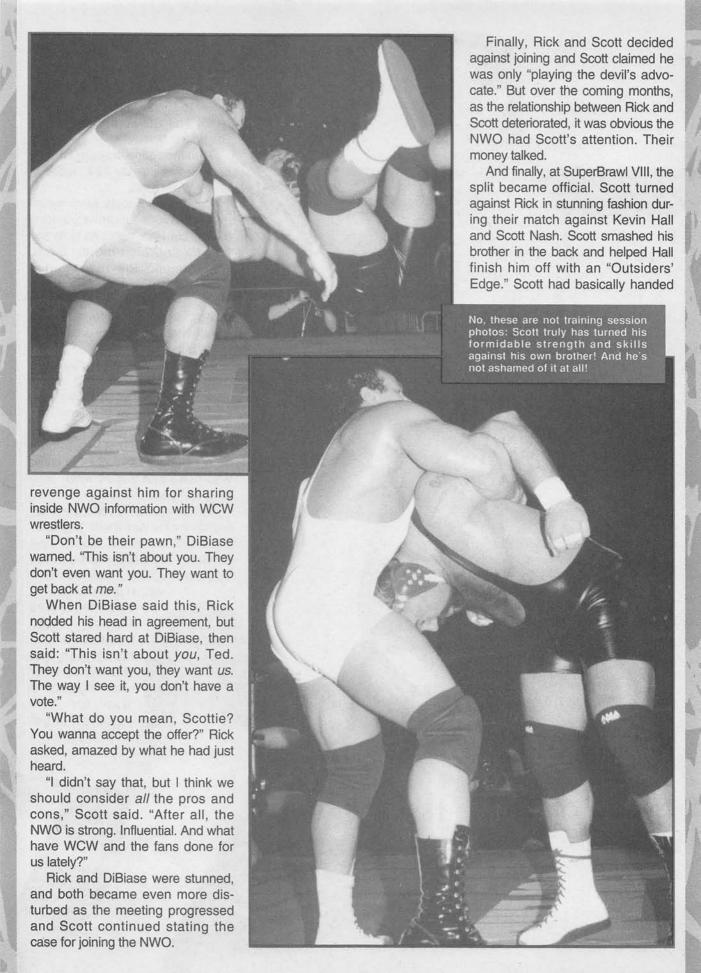


## How The NWO Masterminded The Steiner Split!

new world

Scott Steiner might think he joined the NWO of his own free will, but he didn't. He was lured into the group with a well-designed plan engineered by Eric Bischoff. The fact is, the Steiners never stood a chance of staying together





the WCW World tag team belts to Hall and Nash, but he figured that what he received was much more important.

"Now I'm part of the most powerful organization in wrestling today," Scott said. "And if my brother has any brains, he'll step up and join the NWO, too, rather than staying with DiBiase. But time is running out. He'd better make his decision soon."

Scott took his time making his decision, and the NWO took its time making its move on Scott. Its well-designed plan to acquire Scott Steiner actually started last summer, when DiBiase left the NWO, took a brief vacation from wrestling, and returned as manager of the Steiners. What angered Bischoff and the other NWO members most, though, was that DiBiase shared inside NWO information with the Steiners and other WCW wrestlers.

"That's not fair game," Bischoff said. "That's not the way things work. He was giving away our inside information, and in the corporate world, that's not only unethical, it's illegal. But we knew how to get our revenge."

First came the lucrative offer to the Steiners, which Rick and Scott eventually refused. When that happened, Bischoff lurched into step two of his grand plan: discrediting WCW and creating a split between Rick and Scott.

Using his sources in the publishing and wrestling business, Bischoff spread the word that WCW was planning to de-emphasize the tag team division. In fact, Bischoff was correct: WCW has since placed less emphasis on its tag team division. Then he started spreading nasty rumorsand succeeded in getting others to spread nasty rumors-that were intended to drive a wedge between the Steiners.

That worked, too. The Steiners began having disagreements. Although they



A few months ago, Scott Steiner would have done anything in his power to stop Kevin Nash from power-bombing Rick. Now he thinks Rick deserves the abuse.

won the WCW World tag team title again, for the second time in their careers they had trouble working together. Scott clearly didn't trust Rick, and Rick wasn't sure he could trust Scott. Then rumors spread that Scott had already met with the NWO on his own.

"I had heard the rumors," Rick said, "but Scott always denied them.

He's my brother, and I believed him."

Bad move. It looked as if the Steiners had made up when they regained the tag belts, but they hadn't. And finally, Scott met with the NWO and accepted their offer, which Bischoff had told him would always remain on the table.

"But I always left the door open for Rick to join," Scott insisted. "I made that clear: If they wanted me, they had to give Rick the chance, too."

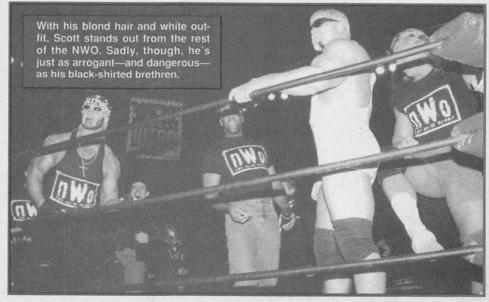
But the trust between the brothers had withered, and Scott's betrayal at SuperBrawl VIII might have ruined their relationship just like Owen Hart's betrayal of Bret ruined their relationship for years.

After SuperBrawl, Scott dyed his hair blond as a way of celebrating his new beginning. He said he expected Rick to join him in the NWO, but Rick turned down several opportunities, such as when the NWO tried to welcome him into the group by presenting him with an NWO T-shirt. Rather than answering verbally, Rick attacked Nash.

But the NWO isn't finished.

"If Rick wakes up and comes aboard, fine," Bischoff said. "But it's his brother that we wanted, and it's his brother that we got. Let Rick and DiBiase wallow in their mediocrity. This was never about them, anyway."

In many ways, though, now it's all about them.

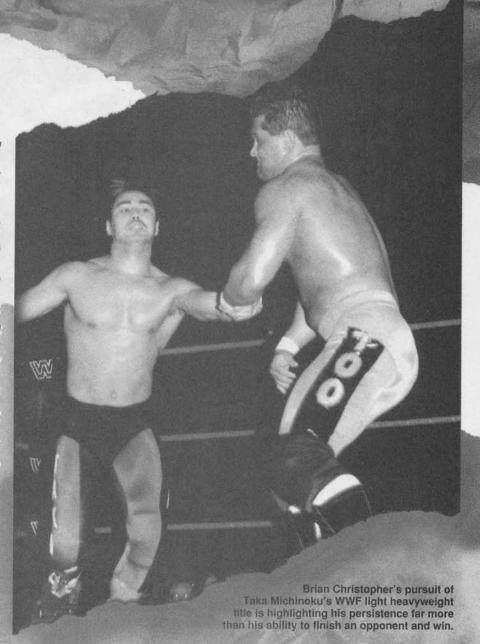


BRIAN CHRISTOPHER'S NO-WIN DILEMMA:

EVEN TAKING TAKA'S

TITLE WOULDN'T HELPI

Brian Christopher thinks that if he chops away at Taka Michinoku long enough, the WWF light heavyweight title will fall into his lap. The law of averages would say that's bound to happen-but is it really worth the effort?



## By Harry Burkett

HE HIGH-PITCHED squealing echoed throughout the side corridor of the Gund Arena. The two bickering men caught the attention of several passersby, who raised their eyebrows and stared at the spectacle in front of them. Both men were red-faced and flustered. The older man was wearing a crown on his head, while the other was wearing a vest and a pair of tights that would make the loudest 1970s wall-paper design look good.

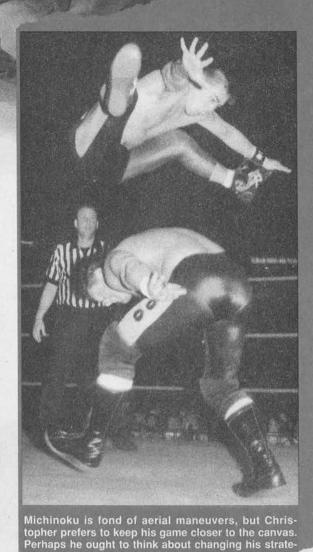
But this wasn't the first time Jerry Lawler and Brian Christopher have exchanged heated words. Sometimes they argue like father and son

"Brian, I just can't get this through your head!" exclaimed Lawler. "Give it up! You don't need the aggravation! Taka, Taka, Taka! I'm so sick of hearing about Taka I could scream! In fact, I will scream! Aaarrgghhhh!"

"That's just like you," Christopher responded. "You don't give me any kind of support. I wrestled him what, 20 times? Big deal! You

lost the USWA belt 80, 90 times! I never told you to give it up!"

"Whoa, wait a minute ... let's calm down here," Lawler said as he placed two hands on Christopher's chest. "Listen: I know you're a better wrestler than Taka. There's no doubt about that. I don't understand why you haven't won the title by now. There's just something about that guy. You need a fresh start. Let's face facts: He's lucked out over 20 times now. Even if you beat him this week, what would that prove? Everybody would say it's a fluke. Aim higher,



In his relentless pursuit of the WWF light heavyweight title, Christopher has angered Jerry Lawler more than he's angered the champion!

Perhaps he ought to think about changing his gy. What does he have to lose?

Brian. You're better than this."

Lawler took a deep breath, then backed away a step from Christopher. "I've gotta go. I gotta do a live interview with some local guy. See ya later."

Christopher watched "The King" walk away, but his face remained red with rage. As soon as Lawler was out of sight, Christopher's cheeks puffed out, his eyes bulged, and he kicked a trash can. "Taka, Taka, Taka!" he yelled. "I can't stand it! Aaarrgghhhh!"

The episode was indicative of Christopher's current frustrations. The prospect of being the first WWF light heavyweight champion is what lured Christopher to the federation in

impressive reigns as USWA Southern champion made him a sure bet to dominate the WWF light heavyweight ranks. After defeating the USWA's best, including Lawler on one occasion, "Too Sexy" was confident he could be successful in a division that included men such as Scott Taylor and ...

the first place. His

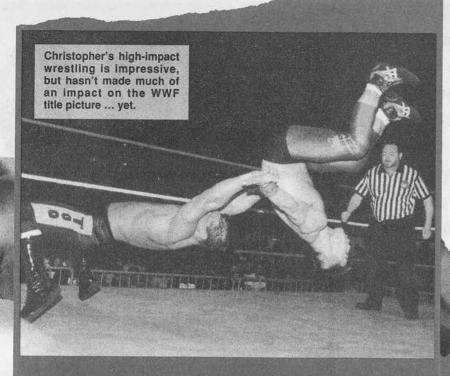
Then the WWF signed Taka Michinoku to a lucrative contract, but that didn't rattle the (rumored-to-be) second-generation superstar. A victory over one of Japan's hottest athletes would look very good on his resume. But there was one factor Christopher didn't foresee: losing.

well, Scott Taylor.

Nothing went according to plan. Michinoku breezed through the title tournament, including the final against Christopher on December 7, 1997. Christopher claims to be gaining momentum, but match results state otherwise. The law of averages, if nothing else, would suggest that a Christopher win should have occurred long before now. But it hasn't been close.

Some say Christopher's failure is due primarily to bad strategy. Michinoku's quickness has proven to be insurmountable for Christopher. The champion has dominated their matches with high-flying maneuvers such as moonsaults, huracanranas, and suicide dives. Christopher has been wise not to duplicate these moves, instead opting to wait for Michinoku to make a mistake, then keep him on the mat with stomping, flying elbowsmashes, and kneedrops. So far, Christopher hasn't been able to keep Michinoku grounded long enough to take advantage of the situation.

Christopher is betting Michinoku will make a major mistake one night



competitive. Mr. Christopher should be admired for this, not criticized."

Christopher's pursuit of Michinoku will probably continue as long as he is the top contender. But that seems just fine with Christopher, Michinoku, and the thousands of fans who have seen their matches.

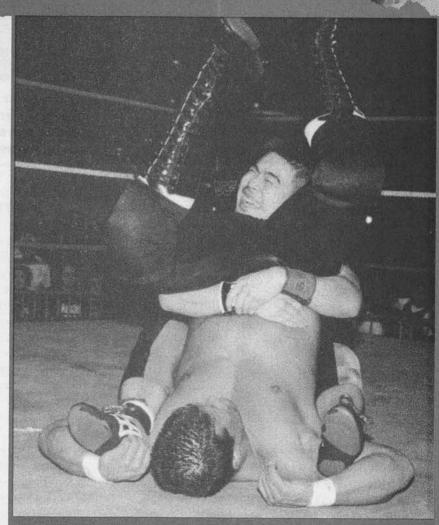
It's fine with everyone, it seems ... except Jerry Lawler.

so he can finally pounce and realize his dream of becoming light heavyweight champion. But how long could it last? If Christopher must wrestle 20 matches in order to snatch one victory, could he ever keep Michinoku from regaining the title?

More importantly, what would such a victory really mean? In this respect, Lawler is correct: A Christopher win wouldn't mean very much at all. Everyone would view it as a fluke. It would be a victory that would serve only to soothe Christopher's obsession. Christopher, in all likelihood, would quickly lose the title back to Michinoku. And after all that, what would have been accomplished?

There is one man, however, who gives Christopher more credit than most: Taka Michinoku.

"This may surprise people, but I respect Brian Christopher very much," he said through an interpreter. "I respect his ability and his persistence. I do not respect his foul tactics, such as relying on outside interference from that man who claims not to be his father. Our matches are always



Another loss for Christopher, who hopes to one day unseat the champion. But at this point, would such a victory ever be viewed as more than just a fluke?

The telephone wires sizzle each month, as two top wrestlers voice their rage and hostility toward each other. Here's the unedited transcript of their conversation, your chance to feel the raw emotion that results when two antagonists face off ... One On One

HEN JIM CORNETTE pledged to bring old-fashioned wrestling back to the WWF, no one could have predicted that he intended to revive the National Wrestling Alliance and lead it into battle in WWF rings. Yet that is exactly what the "Louisville Lip" has done, recruiting Jeff Jarrett, Barry Windham, The Rock 'n' Roll Express, and The Midnight Express to help bring wrestling back to its roots. Though Jarrett and The Rock 'n' Rolls have since left Cornette's side, the racket-wielding manager remains determined to topple the WWF and resurrect the NWA.

Sgt. Slaughter is no stranger to the NWA. In fact, in theory the WWF commissioner should agree with Cornette that today's WWF needs some cleaning up. However, Slaughter has probably seen what the NWO has done to WCW, and he is keeping a watchful eye on Cornette and his crew to prevent the same thing from happening under his watch.

Right now, the two have an uneasy truce.

Cornette's troops have been sanctioned to wrestle at WWF events and have even been allowed to wrestle for WWF titles and defend NWA titles. However, Slaughter and Cornette have found themselves disagreeing more vehemently of late, especially after Slaughter's decision to name WWF official Earl Hebner referee of a Rock 'n' Roll Express NWA title defense; the Express lost the belts to The Headbangers in that bout.

Technicalities and legal issues, as well as rules that differ between federations, have made it difficult for the NWA to work within the confines of the WWF. To let both sides have their say, we invited Cornette and Slaughter to air their differences here ... "One On One."

## ONE O



"You're not trying to save wrestling,
Cornette. I know you too well to fall for
that. You're just trying to keep your
name in the headlines."
—Sgt. Slaughter

JIM CORNETTE: Well, Sarge, I'm glad I finally have the chance to get hold of you. I think you've been having some trouble with your voicemail. I must have left 20 messages for you, and this is the first time I've been able to get you on the line. Maybe Vince McMahon should break down and hire you a secretary.

**SGT. SLAUGHTER:** There's nothing wrong with my voicemail, Cornette. I've answered your calls, but I can't call you back every time you call and tell me you're not satisfied with the work of one of our referees.

JC: I understand that all referees can't be Tommy Young, but is it asking too much to want a ref who's competent enough to count to three without reaching into his mouth and counting on the three teeth he has left?

SS: Cornette, I don't think this conversation was meant to be a forum for your gripes with the officiating in the WWF. Let's cut to the chase. You've brought in a contingent of wrestlers who represent the National Wrestling Alliance. You have also brought in your own referee, one who is not certified by the WWF, and your own rulebook. I have a problem with that.

## NONE



"Why are you trying to dilute tradition by making it conform to McMahon's rules? If anyone should be down here at our side, it should be you."

—Jim Cornette

JC: Now wait a second. It's not like I wrote up a rulebook and hired some high school dropout to come in as a referee. Tommy Young is enforcing the rules of the NWA, an organization that dates back about 100 years. I've even heard rumors that one of the guys who crossed the Delaware with George Washington in 1775 wrestled in the NWA, but I have to admit that's unconfirmed. I think I read it somewhere on the Internet.

SS: That's all well and good. I've wrestled in the NWA, and I even won the U.S. title there. However, this is not the NWA. When your men wrestle in a WWF ring, they have to abide by WWF rules. If they want to put their titles up, fine, a title match can be sanctioned, but it must be wrestled under WWF rules and officiated by a WWF referee.

JC: You don't understand this at all, do you, Slaughter? The second you got yourself a cushy office job, you forgot all about your career in the ring. Why are you trying to dilute tradition by making it conform to McMahon's rules? If anyone should be down here at our side, it should be you. How do you feel telling people you're associated with the WWF and then seeing

Shawn Michaels and Hunter Hearst Helmsley drop their pants on TV? Do you brag about being the rules enforcer in the WWF when The New Age Outlaws throw Chainsaw Charlie and Cactus Jack in a garbage dumpster, then push them off a 10-foot-high stage? That's exactly what the NWA is fighting against. Come back to the tradition that made wrestling great, not something that threatens to destroy it.

SS: You're not trying to save wrestling, Cornette. I know you too well to fall for that. You're just trying to keep your name in the headlines by trying to start a controversy. You couldn't guide anyone to a title in the WWF, so you went and brought in the NWA tag team champions, The Rock 'n' Roll Express. Then after a few weeks with you at their side, they lose the belts to The Headbangers. You're blaming the WWF for the fact that the Rock 'n' Rolls lost the belts to deflect criticism from the fact that your interference cost them the belts.

JC: Listen to you. When did Sgt. Slaughter start towing the company line?

SS: I have always stood by my ideals and defended what I thought was fair and just. I've made my fair share of mistakes, but I've always done what I felt was best.

JC: Then join us! The NWA almost got destroyed in the 1980s. Now the honor, the tradition, and the pride that was the NWA is back. We can tear the WWF down. Wrestlers will actually know how to wrestle, not just beat each other over the head with chairs. A whole new generation of fans will learn wrestling as it's meant to be: a game of human chess, with moves and countermoves and counter-countermoves.

SS: And loaded tennis rackets?

JC: Tell me the truth. Don't you miss the days of solid grappling, when champions were honorable and contenders were hungry? When wrestlers wouldn't be tired out after 10 minutes of kicking and punching?

SS: Cornette, I think you're looking at the past through rose-colored glasses. There were always champions who cheated to stay on top. NWA champions like Harley Race and Buddy Rogers and Ric Flair. And there have always been brawlers who have been great wrestlers. I've been in the ring for a lot of years, pal, and I've seen some fine wrestlers get tired out early battling for a title belt. What makes pro wrestling beautiful is that there's room for all styles of wrestlers. There are plenty of guys who do things I don't care for, and those wrestlers are fined or suspended. Do I miss the old days? Sometimes, sure. Am I excited about what the future of wrestling—and the WWF—has to offer? You'd better believe it!

JC: I guess that's why I always thought of you as a loser. The Midnight Express, Barry Windham, and me, we're rewriting the history books. If you don't want to be a part of it, fine. Your loss. Just remember: Two years from now when you're handing in an application for assistant timekeeper in the NWA, maybe my voicemail won't be working.

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## Sincerely Yours (Continued from page 5)

ed out as rookies in the same independents that we read about every month in Inside Wrestling and its sister publications.

Independent wrestling is what keeps this sport alive after all these years. Without the independents, we wouldn't have wrestling 365 days a year. More importantly, major groups like the WWF and WCW wouldn't have something new to show us every week.

That is why it is troubling to see that the USWA has gone the way of the AWA and Smoky Mountain Wrestling. There is now a lot of space

down in Memphis. Even though we can see Music City Wrestling anytime we want. what USWA accomplished will never be duplicated ... ever!

The only consolation is that we can watch Jerry Lawler in the WWF. Well, in closing, I would just like to say goodbye to the great group at the USWA—the biggest in Tennessee—and wish good luck to the new studs. Music City Wrestling, Please keep the sport the way it has always been and provide us with some of the stars of the next century.

> MAURIO CASSANI Milan, Italy

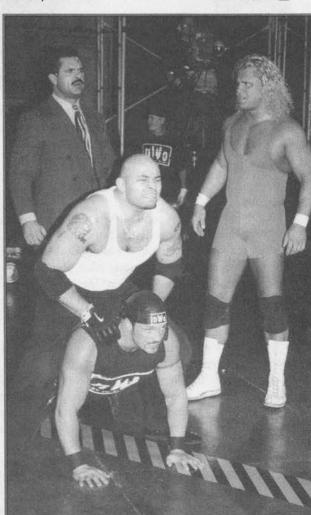
## THREE STOOGES

If the NWO is so smart, why do they recruit unreliable fools like Rick Rude, Curt Hennia, and Randy Savage?

of three different promotions in less than one month. What kind of lovalty is that? Curt Hennig walked out on Vince McMahon, then came over to WCW, where he walked out on Ric Flair and "Diamond" Dallas Page.

As for Randy Savage, he's nothing but a loose cannon who has demonstrated that he's too flaky for anybody to trust. It is because of weak characters like these threenot big egos-that the NWO will fall apart.

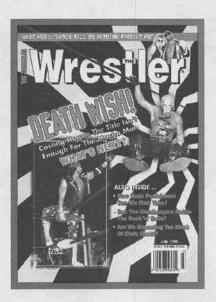
> ORVILLE SCHLOE Millville, NJ



Neither Rick Rude or Curt Hennig are known for their profound sense of loyalty. They are the weak links in the Rick Rude was part NWO chain, says Orville Schloe.

## This Month In...

## Wrastler



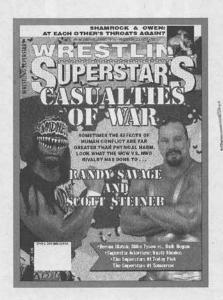
Here they go again—RANDY SAVAGE vs.

HULK HOGAN in another chapter of their on-again, off-again feud. The "Macho Man" cost Hollywood the WCW World title at SuperBrawl, but now what? What will these two do to each other next? We're not sure we want to know ... MARC MERO has been acting crazy for months. He's just so jealous of the attention SABLE gets. He had some interesting things to say about her in "Q & A" ... How much punishment can RIC FLAIR's body take? That's exactly the question the "Nature Boy" wanted to have answered in a match he had with DAVEY BOY SMITH

All this—and much more in the July 1998 issue of The Wrestler



## WRESTLING SUPERSTARS



Wars have a way of taking their toll on even the strongest of men. The WCW-NWO war sure has. RANDY SAVAGE and SCOTT STEINER could tell that. They've been destroyed mentally. Will they ever recover?

... KEN SHAMROCK and OWEN HART hated each other last summer. Now they're teaming, but they'd rather be at each other's throats! ... Which young stars are destined to make it big? Don't miss our special section in which the superstars of today pick the superstars of tomorrow ... Is JIMMY HART serious about re-forming THE HART FOUNDATION in WCW?

Absolutely. Can it work?

All this—and much more in the June 1998 issue of *Wrestling Superstars* 



INSIDE WRESTLING 71

## STUCK MOJO



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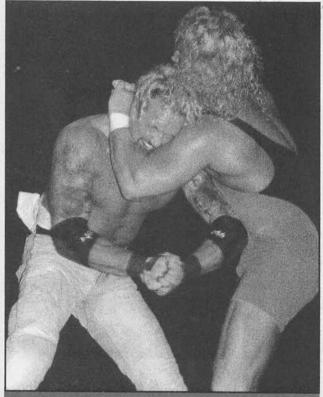


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## On The Road

(Continued from page 10)



DDP had jeans on the night he beat Curt Hennig for the WCW U.S. title at Starrcade. And he has had jeans on for every successful defense of his belt. The man likes wearing jeans. It's just that simple.

wanted. This was getting confusing.

"DDP, aren't jeans jeans?" I asked.

"No, especially when you plan on wrestling in them," Page said. "Jeans aren't jeans. Some jeans are more comfortable than others. Remember, I plan on making my living in these jeans, like a rancher or a cowhand. Think they take their jeans lightly? Think some lawyer goes out and buys the first suit he sees on the rack? Of course not. This is important stuff."

And then Page came to a stunning conclusion. He stopped in his tracks on Geary Street—nearly got run over by a cable car, too—shook one of his pant legs, pulled the cuff back over his boots, and made a proclamation.

"You know, these jeans have served me well," he said. "Maybe I don't need new jeans. Maybe I'll just keep on wearing these."

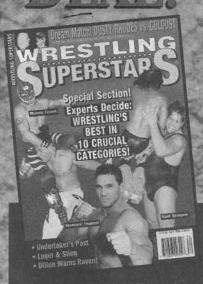
He paused.

"Let's go have lunch."

"Dim-sum?" I asked hopefully.

"Nah, too sissy-like," he said. "Let's go have some sushi."

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#### **Behind The Door**

(Continued from page 12)

Responded Hogan: "When the time comes, Scott Hall will do the right thing."

You know, I just don't understand this at all. How can Hogan possibly think that Hall giving him the belt would constitute doing the right thing? Maybe Hall giving Hogan a title shot would be the right thing, although you know Hogan would never give Hall a title shot. He never did. That Hogan is the most self-centered person on Earth is not news. That he becomes more self-centered by the day-more narcissistic-is somehow news, because he breaks the boundaries constantly. It's just a big joke.

There are a lot of things in

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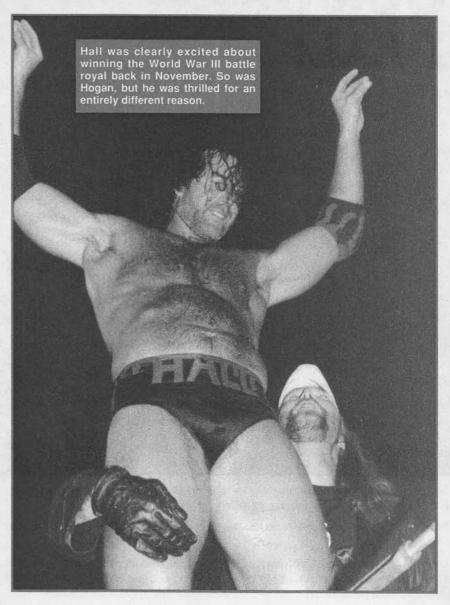
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wrestling I don't understand. There was the hubbub over Nick Patrick's supposedly fast count on Sting at Starrcade '98, then there's the fans rooting for Randy Savage against Lex Luger at SuperBrawl '98, now there's this. I guess I'm just not tuned into wrestling these days. Maybe I'm getting old. Maybe I just don't understand.

This Hogan thing. It makes no sense.

I asked J.J. Dillon, chairman of WCW's Executive Committee

(another concept I don't understand) whether he would allow Hall to give the belt to Hogan. His answer was, for a change, a good one.

"No," Dillon said. "Titles are non-transferable."

Well, I'm glad we got this straight. And what if somebody tried to give the belt to another wrestler?

"I'd probably have to declare the title vacant," Dillon said. "Nobody would have the belt."

So there you have it. Hall, wrestle on. Hogan, shut up.

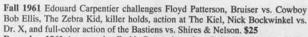
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#### The Insider

(Continued from page 14)



Dusty Rhodes and Dick Murdoch, known as The Outlaws, were feared throughout the sport back in the 1970s. I bet if Murdoch were still alive today, he'd approve of what his old partner is doing.

nitely were not. I wanted to be out there in the spotlight where I belong. But they tried to keep me behind a microphone."

Rhodes makes a good point. WCW puts so much emphasis on tradition and respecting the accomplishments of the stars of the past, but when one of the great stars of the past in the NWA/WCW tries to step to the forefront again, he is treated with scorn and ridicule. WCW treated him like a second-class citizen, not like the living legend he truly is.

As I type these words into my computer, I still shake my head in amazement. Dusty has been a perennial punching bag for columns that favor chaos over hypocrisy. Frankly, the written abuse has been going on for so

long by me and my predecessors that we all lost sight of what Rhodes used to be. He did as well.

"I haven't changed—I just woke up," asserted Rhodes. "I'm not a dinosaur that belongs in that Jurassic Park movie. I'm on the cutting edge. Men like Hollywood Hogan, Kevin Nash, Scott Hall. The list is endless, baby."

Then, suddenly, Rhodes stopped. He looked straight ahead as the tone of his voice changed dramatically.

"You know, I've read your magazines since I first laced up my boots," he said. "I read the things written about me in the columns that you now have. There was a time when it hurt me greatly. I hated being the butt of the jokes and being referred to as some buffoon.

"But now I realize that you and your predecessors were right about some things," he continued, turning his eyes to mine. "I was kissing up to the fans. I wasn't acting like a man. I was only interested in popularity and all the cheers I could get. But that's not what this business is about. I knew that years ago. I just needed a reality check to find it out again."

Dusty looked at me warmly, the way a father looks at his daughter, and actually thanked me.

Wow, I thought, a warm moment with a man who has now become almost a patron saint of rulebreaking. Who would have thought? It was like a

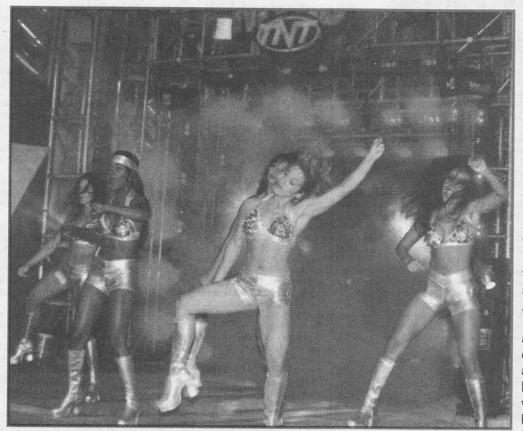
man who opened his curtains and saw the sun again after years of darkness.

"But let me tell you one thing to pass on to the world," blared Dusty, reverted back to his classic "Dream" persona. "You tell everybody. It don't matter, baby. Tell them that the 'Dream' has been realized. Dusty Rhodes is back and they ain't never seen an NWO outlaw like me."

I shook Dusty's hand and exited his office. WCW employees were lining the halls, obviously on a clandestine mission to eavesdrop. I gave them one long sneer as I exited the plush offices. Once outside, I chuckled to myself and looked to the sky.

If only Shocket were around to see this.  $\ \square$ 

### On Assignment (Continued from page 16)



Is it any wonder the women are staying away? With the extreme violence of ECW and the gyrations of the *Nitro* girls, wrestling federations are clearly catering to a male audience.

Nintendo 64. Both WCW and the WWF know to whom they must appeal.

Nitro trots out leggy dancers to entertain the crowd during commercial breaks and between matches. Raw features buxom blondes named Sable and Sunny, not to mention a duo that appeals to the sadist in all men—Chyna and Luna Vachon. Even ECW is approaching the major leagues in this respect with its array of femme fatales who will mix it up both in and out of the ring.

Speaking of ECW, extreme violence is another reason that women are not filling the arenas. Pardon the stereotype, but men react less squeamishly when the blood begins to spill. Torn flesh and airborne frying pans hardly appeal to both sexes. In fact, it turns many women (including this one) away.

WCW and the WWF have adopted a more extreme style recently. Terry Funk and Cactus Jack often wrap themselves in barbed wire, while Raven insists that all of his WCW matches be contested under Raven's rules, which means anything goes and no disqualifications.

But will this resurgence last without a substantial female presence in the arena? As much as I would like to say "no," I recognize that this may be the best tactic for the continuing success of wrestling. Right now, wrestling is a ratings game. WCW is owned by a company that also owns two major cable stations. It has set the stan-

dard, and the WWF, which is owned by just one person, needs to keep up. Each promotion's success is judged by that rarely seen Nielsen family—a family that consists of more Gregs, Peters, and Bobbys than Marcias, Jans, and Cindys.

Wrestling today is a lot like network television of the late-'70s. In those days, "jiggle" television-with shows like Charlie's Angels and Three's Company-ruled the airwaves. The male characters who leered at the shapely babes back then would be in violation of numerous harassment laws today.

For several years, both the WWF and

WCW were looking for the missing element that would return the sport's popularity to something that resembled the success of the mid-'80s. They thought a familyoriented approach would help replicate the glory days. That failed, so they moved in the opposite direction, with a smaller promotion based in Philly leading the way to a brand new trend that, in a few, short years, changed wrestling from family entertainment to, in many cases, a titillating hybrid of sex and violence. Parents must now think twice about allowing their kids to watch a WWF program. Just a few years ago, it was safe to let the whole family watch.

And that includes the moms who once occupied a lot of the seats.

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Simmons, Bret-Shango, Rude-Dustin. March 1993: Who Controls The Balance Of Power In The WWF? Also: Shawn Michaels, Nikita Koloff, Windham-Dustin, Survivor Series, Rod Price.

April 1993: New Blood! The Wrestlers Who Could Revitalize The WWF In '93. Plus: Z-Man & Gunn, Sting-Vader, Dangerous Alliance, Ric Flair. May 1993: Exclusive WrestleMania IX Match

Analysys. Also: Andre the Giant, Pillman & Austin, Great Muta, Headshrinkers-Steiners, 2 Cold Scorpio. August 1993: Hulk Hogan vs. Yokozuna: The

"Hulkster" Faces His Biggest Challenge Ever! Plus: Jeff Jarrett, Maxx Payne, Sid Vicious, Cactus-Vader, Bret Hart.

January 1994 (Special Issue): Wrestling's Seasonal Spectaculars! WWF's SummerSlam, WCW's Fall Brawl. Plus: Rick Martel, Missy Hyatt, Razor-Schyster, Steven Regal, Orndorff-Flair, Mascaras-Liger.

February 1994: Our Holiday Wish List For 1994. Plus: Hogan-Savage-Bret, Hacksaw Duggan, Doinks, Hollywood Blonds, Steven Regal.

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April 1994 (Special Issue): The Inside Wrestling Computer Tournament, Also: Lex Luger, Starrcade. Yoko-Fuji, Ric Flair, Curt Hennig, Funk-Sabu.

May 1994: Lex Luger & Bret Hart: Their Greatest Triumphs, Their Gravest Tragedies. Also: Flair-Rude, Rick Morton, Heenan-Bockwinkel, Brian Christopher, Yoko-Booger.

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December 1994: Hogan In Paradise ... And Ric Flair Feels The Thunder. Also: Bret-Owen, Rottens. Cactus, AAA midgets, Sparky Pluga, Donn E. Allen

February 1995: It's Getting Ugly: Wrestling's Losing Its Greatest Heroes. Also: Sting, McMahon-Lawler, Cactus-Tammy, Woman, Brutus-Hogan. Valentine-Doink.

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November 1995: One Defense In Four Months?! Strip Hulk Hogan Of The Title—Now! Also: Alex Wright, Tatanka, King of Ring, Chris Benoit, Backlund-

December 1995: White With Fright, Green With Envy: Why The Undertaker Had To Bury Kama. Also: Vader-Hogan, Warrior-Renegade, Gangstas-PE, Waylon Mercy, Heavenly Bodies.

January 1996: Our Holiday Wish List For 1996! Also: ude: Scott Norton, Sid Vicious, Psicosis-Misterio. Barry Horowitz, Sabu.

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April 1997 (Special Issue): The 1997 Inside Wrestling Computer Tournament, Also: Helmsley-Marlena-Sable, Nasty Boys, Flash Funk, Taz, Rick

May 1997: Giant vs. Hogan: "Hey, Little Man, What Ya Gonna Do?" Also: Woman-Benoit-Sullivan, Shawn-Bret, Undertaker, Scott Hall, Sabu.

June 1997: Ahmed Johnson Reveals: "I Almost Joined The Nation Of Domination." Plus: Mankind. Lex Luger, NWO, Davey Boy Smith, Jerry Graham.

July 1997 (Special Issue): House Of Horrors! Fourth World Title Change In '97 ... Can The Undertaker Restore Order? Plus: Stars answer personal questions, Steve McMichael, Road Warriors, Syxx, Sandman-Lori-Tyler

August 1997: Bret Hart Lashes Out: "You're All Responsible For What I'm About To Do!" Plus: Shawn Michaels, Chyna, Steiners, Sting, Gilbert tourney. September 1997: The NWO's Anniversay Report. Plus: Lex Luger, Shawn-Bret, Terry Funk, Rob Van Dam, Ken Shamrock.

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Holiday 1997 (Special Issue): The Steiners' Million-Dollar Gamble! Plus: 1998 calendar, Alex Wright, The Patriot, Sgt. Slaughter, Turnbuckle Turkey

January 1998: Sexy Seasons Greetings From Sable: Our Holiday Wish For The Stars. Plus: Bret Hart, Rey Misterio Jr., Steve Austin, WCW Executive Committee, Fritz Von Erich.

February 1998: Wrestling's Top Stars: What's Ahead For 1998. Plus: Brian Pillman, Sting, Hunter Hearst Helmsley, Reckless Youth-Flash Funk.

March 1998: Hart Transplant! The Truth Behind Bret's Defection To WCW. Plus: Steve McMichael. Bam Bam Bigelow, Steve Austin, Disco Inferno.

April 1998 (Special Issue): The 1998 Inside Wrestling Computer Tournament. Also: Scott Hall, Marlena, Chris Benoit, Gunn & James, Sabu-Sandman. May 1998: Is The WWF Screwing Another Hart? Plus: Steve Austin, Dallas Page, Booker T, Larry Zbyszko, Al Snow.

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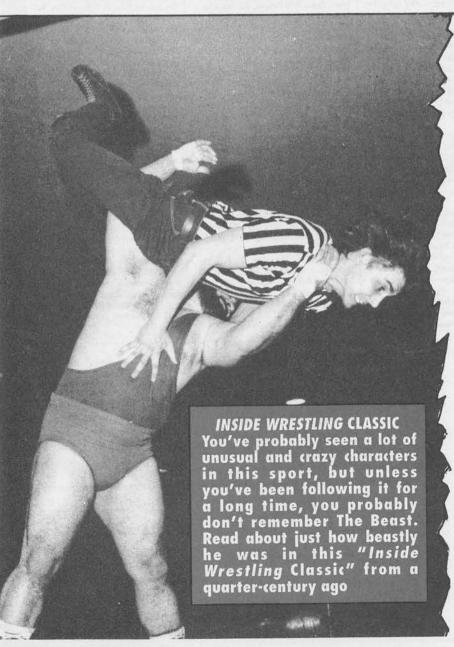
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# THE BEAST GOES ON A RAMPAGE



AND A
REFEREE
NEARLY
DIES!!!

WHEN BASEBALL FANS don't like a ruling they yell "Kill the Umpire!"

But when The Beast doesn't like a referee's decision, he doesn't yell "Kill the Referee!"

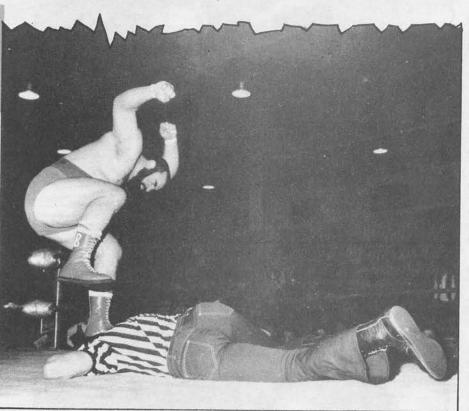
Instead of yelling it—he tries to do it!

And that's just what The Beast tried to do to referee Bobby Lane before a startled crowd in Amarillo, Texas.

And if it wasn't for restraint of that wrestler by N.W.A. officials, he just might have carried it out.

It was a night to remember as fans packed the arena to see The Beast tangle with Ciclon Negro, hoping maybe the two of them would destroy each other and rid the wrestling world of two obnoxious characters. What they didn't expect to see was the referee going into the canvas—head first.

It started out as a normal match, normal that is for two guys who are



known for using every trick in the book and then some. There was the expected choking, gouging, kicking and the like by both sides. The Beast was particularly upset by some of Ciclon's tactics, especially when he unceremoniously granted Beast a knee in the groin. In fact, he was more than a little upset, especially when referee Bobby Lane disqualified him and awarded the match to Negro.

"What?" growled The Beast. "Are you saying The Beast lost a match? You are wrong! Wrong, you hear? The Beast never loses!

But Lane stuck to his ruling.

The Beast continued arguing. He told Lane Ciclon had used every illegal method he could to win the match, while claiming he stuck strictly to the rules.

"Youlost," Lane repeated. "Now

get out of the ring."

"You insult me. You not only disqualify me when I win," said The Beast, "now you tell me to get out.

After bodyslamming the referee (opposite page), The Beast brutally stomps him until he

There is no excuse—none—for what The Beast did to a referee after a recent match in Texas. It was cowardly, sickening, disgusting. He lapses into unconsciousness.

should not...he MUST not go unpunished!

Two officials rush to the aid of the stricken referee, turning him over to assess the damage inflicted upon him by The Beast. One of the officials commented off the record that "this was the most brutal and vicious attack on a referee" that he'd ever seen or heard about.

You don't tell The Beast to leave. Okay, I'll leave. But first I'll leave you on the floor!"

Bobby thought The Beast was just faking. He wouldn't be crazy enough to carry out his threat. But Bobby figured wrong. For he suddenly found himself in the air, with The Beast holding him with one hand -around his neck. Bobby must have felt like an airplane coming in for a landing and that's the way he looked, high above the ring, at an angle, his head aimed for the canvas.

Maybe now The Beast would show he was just bluffing, and let the referee down easy.

But he wasn't. He let Lane down hard, sending him crashing into the canvas, head first.

Bobby was evidently more than shocked about the whole thing. He was stunned. In fact, he was uncon-

The Beast seemed to like this picture of the referee with his mouth shut. He looked less disgusting to him lying flat on his stomach than standing up and making decisions The Beast didn't like.

The Beast may have felt better about the way things were now, but

he still wasn't satisfied. He brought his heavy legs down full force on Lane and stomped him. He stomped

him again. And again.

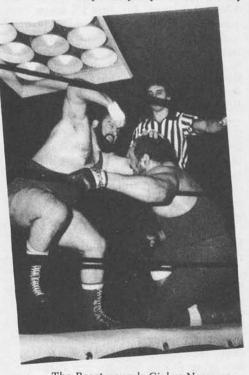
This was already too much for the crowd. The fans were shouting for The Beast to lay off. They wanted him to leave the referee alone. They naturally liked any decision that went against The Beast. But no matter who the decision went to, they found this whole spectacle disgusting.

And if it was too much for the crowd, it was definitely enough for the officials. Had The Beast gone stark raving mad? He would wind up killing the poor referee if they didn't

stop him.

Several of them leaped into the ring and got between The Beast and the unconscious Bobby Lane. Beast, however, didn't want to be separated and got in a few swift kicks to Lane's face before they could stop him.

They blocked him off and tried to get him into the corner. But The Beast wasn't through yet. He started grappling with one of the N.W.A. officials. He got far enough when he tossed one over on the canvas. Then he realized these were the wrong guys to wrestle with. Knocking a referee out was bad enough. But doing the same thing to an official—that isn't good public relations. Especially if you want to stay



The Beast pounds Ciclon Negro as Negro hangs onto the ropes. Note the boxing gloves on Negro's hands.



Officials race into the ring to try to prevent The Beast (above) from continuing his attack on the stricken Lane. But The Beast, who'd gone berserk, begins to brawl with the officials because he wanted to keep attacking Lane (below), who remains unconscious during this melee.



in wrestling.

The Beast stepped out of the ring and walked to his dressing room amid angry jeers and a thousand thumbs pointed down.

Whether the whole incident ended there was not certain and the N.W.A. wasn't clearing it up one bit.

Would The Beast be fined for his actions? Would the Beast be suspended for a period of time? Would The Beast be banned from arenas across the U.S.? Would The Beast at least have to pay for Bobby Lane's hospital stay?

The N.W.A. is mum. They just aren't answering those questions. In fact, they aren't even saying they're considering them.

Is it all right for a wrestler to throw a referee into the canvas head first? No comment! Is it okay to battle with wrestling officials? No comment! Is The Beast to be punished? No comment! Does this mean there will be open season on referees? That question doesn't deserve a comment! The

answer is obvious!

But there are some wrestlers who feel every one of those questions deserves a comment. They feel if those officials don't start thinking about those things, and doing it quick, wrestling as a sport could be tossed out the window.

"I enjoy wrestling and I know the spectators enjoy it," said Ricky Romero. "They know it's a good sport and they like it. But once animals like The Beast get away with this sort of thing, people are gonna lose respect for all of us."

"A guy like The Beast doesn't deserve to be in the arena," added Moose Morowski. "Any guy who would attack a defenseless referee deserves to lose his license to wrestle. In fact, he deserves to go to jail for what he did."

"I've never heard of this happening before," said Lord Al Hays. "After all, I've had decisions that I didn't agree with. But I've got more respect for a referee than to toss him around like a football. Without these guys to keep their eyes on a match, our whole sport is finished. Through."

But not everyone agrees that The Beast did the wrong thing.



Ernie Ladd feels that maybe now referees will have second thoughts about the decisions they make decisions he calls usually unfair.

"It was only a matter of time," argued Ernie Ladd. "These referees think they can do anything they please. They make decisions that are sometimes unfair. But why should they care? Now maybe they will!"

"Too bad," said Don Fargo. "It's just too bad what happened to that striped shirt. After all. This is a rough sport. We're rough guys. And if those guys don't know it, it's just too bad. They're not immune. They have to take their lumps with the rest of us."

Do they? Are referees being paid to be brutally attacked? This incident calls for an investigation. How much longer must wrestling fans be satisfied with "No comment" as an answer?

# Bac Gys!

They may be in the minority, but there are some editors who believe that there MUST be a magazine devoted to those wrestlers, managers, and valets who couldn't care less about the rules of this sport or the wishes of most fans. There was a magazine for them, but for now, at least, the majority view of the

With the climbs to power of such groups as the New World Order and The Nation Of Domination, might we one day see the return of Bad Guys? For now, those of you who subscribe to this view of the sport can at least relish these historic back issues of Wrestling Rulebreaker and Bad Guys, The Magazines

With A Bad Attitude.

editorial board prevails.

Wrestling 93: Rulebreaker (Spring 1993): Bobby Heenan & "Narcissist" Lex Luger: The Total Package Of Brain & Brawn: Color Pinup: Steve Austin vs. Rick Steamboat. Plus: Cactus Jack, Rick Rude, Jerry Lawler, Rulebreaker's Insider With Joey Styles, Big Van Vader, Hall of Fame—The Sheik.

Wrestling 93: Rulebreaker (Fall 1993):

Yokozuna: He Flattened Hulk Hogan ...

Crushed Hulkamania Forever ... Spit In The
Face Of America ... And We Love It! Color
Pinup: Paul Orndorff vs. Ron Simmons. Plus:
Four Horsemen, 10 favorites we'd like to see turn dirty, baddest man poll, Rick Rude-Dustin
Rhodes, Giant Gonzalez, Jerry Lawler, Hall of
Fame—Fred Blassie.

Roll Express, Tatanka

Wrestling Bad Guy:
In Hogan's Control: 7

Vader. Plus: WCW Under, Plus: WCW Under, Bubba Rogers,
Fame—Fritz Von Erich.

Wrestling 93: Rulebreaker (Winter 1993): Brat Patrol! Wrestling 93 Targets The Sport's Most Pampered Players. Plus: Big Van Vader, Ric Flair, Steve Austin, Lex Luger, The Kid, Heavenly Bodies, Hall of Fame—Harley Race.

Wrestling 94—Rulebreaker: Forget About Those
Other Guys—Here Are The
Real Year-End Awards.
(Spring 1994): 1993—The
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Plus: Sting, Brian Lee, Hall
of Fame—Killer Kowalski.
Wrestling Bad Guys
(Winter 1994): King Kong
Bundy—Monster With

A Mission. Color Pinup: Bon Backlund. Plus: Tommy Dreamer, UFOs, Hulk Hogan, Abdullah the Butcher, Big Van Vader, Hall of Fame—Ivan Koloff.

Wrestling Bad Guys (Spring 1995): Vader's Vow Of Violence: "I've Begun My Systematic Destruction Of Hulk Hogan!" Color Action Gallery: Sabu. Plus: Kevin Sullivan, Bob Backlund, Ric Flair, Jim Cornette & The Rock 'n' Roll Express, Tatanka, fat wrestlers, Hall of Fame—George Steele.

Wrestling Bad Guys (Summer 1995): WCW In Hogan's Control: The Inmate Is Running The Asylum! Color Action Gallery: Big Van Vader. Plus: WCW Uncensored, Bret Hart-Jerry Lawler, Bubba Rogers, the next Flair, Hall of Fame—Fritz Von Erich.

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#### **TOP 15**

1—STING

(1) WCW World champion

2—STEVE AUSTIN

(2) No. 2 contender: WWF World title

3-HULK HOGAN

(3) No. 2 contender: WCW World title

4-DIAMOND DALLAS PAGE

(4) U.S. heavyweight champion

5—SHAWN MICHAELS

(-) WWF World champion

6-KEN SHAMROCK (7) No. 3 contender: WWF World title

7-CHRIS JERICHO

(9) WCW cruiserweight champion

8—THE UNDERTAKER

(-) No. 4 contender: WWF World title

9—BAM BAM BIGELOW

(-) ECW TV champion

10-LEX LUGER

(8) No. 5 contender: WCW World title

11-ROCKY MAIVIA

(-) WWF Intercontinental champion

15-KANE

12-BOOKER T

14-TAZ

(6) WCW TV champion

(13) No. 6 contender: WWF World fitle

13—HUNTER HEARST HELMSLEY

(-) No. 5 contender: WWF World title

(10) No. 1 contender: ECW TV title

#### WCW

1—STING

(1) 260, Venice Beach, CA

2-DIAMOND DALLAS PAGE

(2) 260, Tampa, FL

3-HULK HOGAN

(3) 275, Venice Beach, CA

#### 4-CHRIS JERICHO

(6) 225, Vancouver, British Columbia

5-BOOKER T

(5) 250, Harlem, NY

6-LEX LUGER

(4) 265, Chicago, IL

7-RANDY SAVAGE

4—KEN SHAMROCK

(6) 235 San Bernardino, CA

5—THE UNDERTAKER

6-HUNTER HEARST HELMSLEY

(-) 328, parts unknown

(11) 237 Sarasota, FL

8-BRET HART

(-) 235, Calgary, Alberta

9-THE GIANT

(-) 430, parts unknown

10-BILL GOLDBERG

(9) 270, Tulsa, OK 11-RAVEN

(-) 235, Short Hills, NJ

12—CHRIS BENOIT

(7) 218, Edmonton, Alberta

13-EDDY GUERRERO

(15) 221, El Paso, TX

14-RICK STEINER

(-) 248, Detroit, MI

15-PERRY SATURN

(10) 234. Boston, MA

#### WWF

1—SHAWN MICHAELS

(1) 234, San Antonio, TX

2—ROCKY MAIVIA

(2) 272, Pearl City, HI

3—STEVE AUSTIN (3) 241, Dallas, TX

(-) 279, Greenwich, CT

7-KANE

5-TAZ

(5) 345, parts unknown

(9) 169, Morioka, Japan -CACTUS JACK (-) 277, Truth or Consequences, NM

8—TAKA MICHINOKU

10-JEFF JARRETT

(7) 230, Nashville, TN

11-MARC MERO

(12) 235, Buffalo, NY

12—BRADSHAW (10) 309, Roscoe, TX

13—STEVE BLACKMAN

(8) 245, Annville, PA

14-AGUILA

(-) 218, Mexico City, Mexico

15—BARRY WINDHAM

(-) 273, Sweetwater, TX

(13) 214, Minneapolis, MN

(5) 234, Calgary, Alberta

#### ECW

1—SHANE DOUGLAS

(1) 240, Pittsburgh, PA

2-BAM BAM BIGELOW (3) 368, Mt. Laurel, NJ

3—THE SANDMAN (11) 244, Philadelphia, PA

(8) 232, Lima, OH

4—TOMMY DREAMER (7) 245. Yonkers, NY

(2) 248, Red Hook, NY

6-2 COLD SCORPIO (-) 222, Denver, CO

7-AL SNOW

8-SABU

(10) 225, Bombay

9-ROB VAN DAM

(12) 240, Battle Creek, MI

10-JUSTIN CREDIBLE

(6) 225, Waterbury, CT

11—CHRIS CANDIDO

(9) 226, Carteret, NJ

(-) 243, Commerce, OK 15-JOHN KRONUS (15) 256, Cleveland, OH

12-JERRY LYNN

13—LANCE STORM

14-DOUG FURNAS

#### INTERNATIONAL

1-MITSUHARU MISAWA

(1).228, Ashikoga, Japan

2-KENSUKE SASAKI (2) 233, Tokyo, Japan

3—JUSHIN LIGER (3) 206, Hiroshima, Japan 4-UNIVERSO 2000 (4) 215, parts unknown

5-KENTA KOBASHI

6-TOSHIAKI KAWADA

(-) 245, Ashikaga, Japan 7—PERRO AGUAYO (6) 215. Zacatecas, Mexico

(-1 261 Fukuchiyama, Japan

8-KEIJI MUTO (7) 245, Yamaguchi, Japan 9—FRANZ SCHUMANN

(8) 201, Graz, Austria

10—SHINYA HASHIMOTO

(9) 287. Gifu, Japan 11-ULTIMO DRAGON

(-) 175, Mexico City, Mexico

12-MAUNUKEA MOSSMAN (13) 245, Honolulu, HI

13—KIYOSHI TIMURA (-) 191, Yokohama, Japa

14-MR. GANNOSUKE

(-) 223, Tokyo, Japan

15—ATLANTIS (14) 180, Guadalajara, Mexico

#### TOP 15 TAG TEAMS

1—BILLY GUNN & JESSE JAMES

(1) WWF World tag team champions 2-SCOTT HALL & KEVIN NASH

(2) WCW World tag team champions

3-MASA CHONO & KEIJI MUTO

(6) ECW tag team champions

(3) IWGP tag team champions 4—CACTUS JACK & CHAINSAW CHARLIE

(5) No. 1 contenders: WWF tag title 5—CHRIS CANDIDO & LANCE STORM 6—HENRY & PHINEAS GODWINN

(11) No. 2 contenders: WWF tag fifle 7-B. MAHONEY & AXL ROTTEN

(-) No. 1 contenders: ECW tag title

8—THE HEADBANGERS (4) NWA tag team champions

9-BUH BUH RAY & D-VON DUDLEY (10) No. 2 contenders: ECW tag title

10-EIGHT-BALL & SKULL (15) No. 3 contenders: WWF tag title 11—SHANE EDEN & FRENCHY RIVIERA

(14) No. 1 contenders: MCW tag title

12-SABU & ROB VAN DAM

(8) No. 3 contenders: ECW tag title

13—THE ROCK 'N' ROLL EXPRESS (12) No. 1 contenders: NWA tag title

14—THE MISFITS

(-) NWA U.S. tag team champions

15—THE QUEBECERS

(-) No. 4 contenders: WWF tag title

These ratings are compiled by the editors with the assistance of promoters, wrestlers, and reporters around the country, and are based on won-lost records for the past month, quality of opposition, and the inherent skill of each wrestler. The number in parentheses indicates a wrestler's position in that category last issue; (-) indicates that the wrestler was not rated in that category last issue ... Championships highlighted in bold on the "Roll Call Of Champions" have changed hands since our previous issue ... The information under the championship listing indicates the date that champion won the title, who the former champion was, and where the match took place.

#### For period ended March 24, 1998

#### **ROLL CALL OF CHAMPIONS**

ALL-JAPAN INTERNATIONAL CHAMPION: MITSUHARU MISAWA (January 20, 1997; from Kenta Kobashi; Osaka, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN INTERNATIONAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: TOSHIAKI KAWADA & AKIRA TAUE (January 25, 1998; from Johnny Ace & Kenta Kobashi; Yokohama, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN UNITED NATIONAL CHAMPION: MITSUHARU MISAWA (January 20, 1997; from Kenta Kobashi; Osaka, Japan)

AMERICAN INDEPENDENT WRESTLING FEDERATION HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: CYCLONE (October 18, 1997; from Major Havoc; Elkin, NC)

AMERICAN INDEPENDENT WRESTLING FEDERATION LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: GEMINI (February 14, 1998; from Sweet Daddy; Elkin, NC)

AMERICAN INDEPENDENT WRESTLING FEDERATION TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: GENERATION  ${\sf X}$ 

(February 14, 1998; from The Biker Outlaws; Elkin, NC)

AMERICAN INDEPENDENT WRESTLING FEDERATION U.S. CHAMPION: JOHNNY REB (January 3, 1998; from Brian Danzig; Elkin, NC)

CENTURY WRESTLING ALLIANCE HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: ERICH SBRACCIA (January 24, 1998; beat Vic Steamboat in tournament final; Ridgefield, CT)

CENTURY WRESTLING ALLIANCE CRUISERWEIGHT CHAMPION: MILLENNIUM (October 18, 1997; from Joel Davis; Lawrence, MA)

ECW HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: SHANE DOUGLAS (November 30, 1997; from Bam Bam Bigelow; Monaca, PA)

ECW TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: CHRIS CANDIDO & LANCE STORM (December 6, 1997; from Doug Furnas & Phil Lafon; Philadelphia, PA)

ECW TELEVISION CHAMPION: BAM BAM BIGELOW (March 1, 1998; from Taz; Asbury Park, NJ)

GREAT AMERICAN WRESTLING FEDERATION HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: TERMINATOR REX (January 17, 1998; beat Chris Cannon; Red Oak, NC)

INT'L PRO WRESTLING HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: KING KONG BUNDY (December 5, 1997; from Brick Bronsky; Jim Thorpe, PA)

IWGP HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: KENSUKE SASAKI (August 31, 1997; from Shinya Hashimoto; Yokohama, Japan)

IWGP INTERNATIONAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: MASA CHONO & KEIJI MUTO (October 19, 1997; from Kensuke Sasaki & Kazuo Yamazaki; Kobe, Japan)

IWGP JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: JUSHIN LIGER (February 7, 1998; from Shinjiro Otani; Sapporo, Japan)

MUSIC CITY WRESTLING NORTH AMERICAN CHAMPION: TITLE VACANT (Most recently held by Mabel)

MUSIC CITY WRESTLING TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: TITLE VACANT (Most recently held by Steven Dunn & Reno Riggins)

NATIONAL WRESTLING ALLIANCE HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: DAN SEVERN (February 24, 1995; from Chris Candido; Erlanger, KY)

NATIONAL WRESTLING ALLIANCE LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: DEVON STORM (February 14, 1998; beat Reckless Youth in tournament final; Mount Holly, NJ)

NATIONAL WRESTLING ALLIANCE TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE HEADBANGERS (February 17, 1998; from The Rock 'n' Roll Express; Waco, TX)

PACIFIC WRESTLING FEDERATION HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: MITSUHARU MISAWA (January 20, 1997; from Kenta Kobashi; Osaka, Japan)

PACIFIC WRESTLING FEDERATION JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: MAUNUKEA MOSSMAN (August 22, 1997; from Yoshinari Ogawa; Tokyo, Japan)

PACIFIC WRESTLING FEDERATION TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: TOSHIAKI KAWADA & AKIRA TAUE (January 25, 1998; from Johnny Ace & Kenta Kobashi; Yokohama, Japan)

PENNSYLVANIA CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: TIGER KHAN (November 21, 1997; from Cheetah Master; Reading, PA)

PENNSYLVANIA CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: RECKLESS YOUTH (November 21, 1997; from Mike Quackenbush; Reading, PA)

PENNSYLVANIA CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: BLUE THUNDER & J.R. RYDER (January 16, 1998; from The Persian Prince & Dave Patera; Reading, PA)

PRO WRESTLING FEDERATION HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: RIPPER (December 6, 1997; from Italian Stallion; Kings Mountain, NC)

PRO WRESTLING FEDERATION JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: STRUTTER (February 12, 1998; by forfeit from Krush; Albemarle, NC)

PRO WRESTLING FEDERATION TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: GEORGE SOUTH & ITALIAN STALLION (December 6, 1997; from Chris Hamrick & Ripper; Kings Mountain, NC)

WCW CRUISERWEIGHT CHAMPION: CHRIS JERICHO (January 24, 1998; from Rey Misterio Jr.; Dayton, OH)

WCW TELEVISION CHAMPION: BOOKER T (February 22, 1998; from Rick Martel; San Francisco, CA)

WCW U.S. CHAMPION: DALLAS PAGE (December 28, 1997; from Curt Hennig; Washington, D.C.)

WCW WORLD CHAMPION: STING (February 22, 1998; beat Hulk Hogan; San Francisco, CA)

WCW WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: SCOTT HALL & KEVIN NASH (February 22, 1998; from Rick & Scott Steiner; San Francisco, CA)

WWF EUROPEAN CHAMPION: HUNTER HEARST HELMSLEY (March 16, 1998; from Owen Hart; Phoenix, AZ)

WWF INTERCONTINENTAL CHAMPION: ROCKY MAIVIA (December 8, 1997; by forfeit from Steve Austin; Portland, ME)

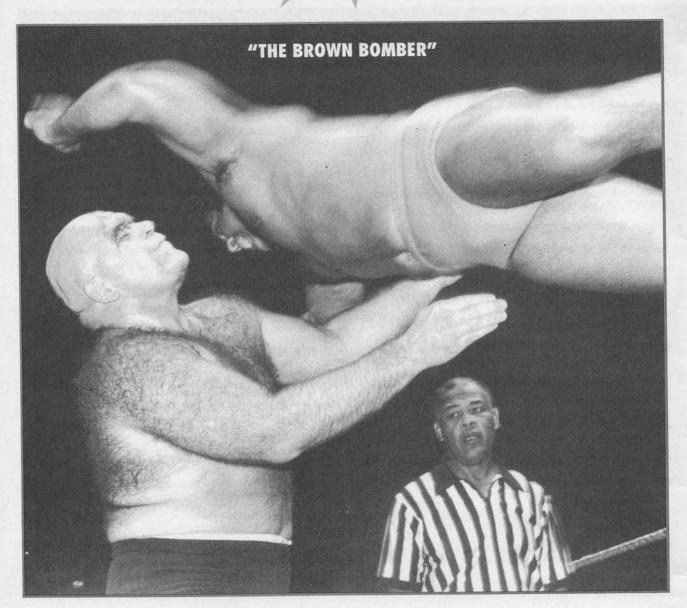
WWF LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: TAKA MICHINOKU (December 7, 1997; beat Brian Christopher in tournament final; Springfield, MA)

WWF WORLD CHAMPION: SHAWN MICHAELS (November 9, 1997; from Bret Hart; Montreal, Quebec)

WWF WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: BILLY GUNN & JESSE JAMES (November 24, 1997; from The Road Warriors; Fayetteville, NC)

# BLAST FROM THE PAST

### This Month In Wrestling History



# GEORGE "THE ANIMAL" STEELE vs. PEDRO MORALES July 1973

With Mike Tyson appearing in the WWF recently, we couldn't help but recall all the other boxers who have tried their hand at the mat sport. Primo Carnera, Tony Galento, and Muhammad Ali are just a few of the pugilists who have made an impact in professional wrestling. Even boxing legend Joe Louis got into the act when he served as special guest referee in this title match between WWWF champion Pedro Morales and George Steele. Of course, Louis spent most of his adult life in the ring, but we doubt he ever saw anything quite like "The Animal" before.

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